



## TEARS AND CHEERS FOR CYRILLE FROM CROWDS AT THE HAWTHORNS



Football fans gathered to pay tribute to Cyrille Regis

IN death, as in life, they sang his name: "There's only one Cyrille Regis." The moving chorus came from Baggies fans as they waved a final goodbye to their football hero at The Hawthorns on Tuesday morning.

Hundreds of mourners massed at the ground ahead of the main ceremony for the Albion great as his coffin was carried from the ground to a private family funeral. The cortege stopped off in order for fans and the club's current squad to pay their respects.

The hearse was welcomed to The Hawthorns with a spontaneous round of applause and exited 15 minutes later to the same ovation as fans broke out into song in honour of Cyrille. The first-team squad and manager Alan Pardew lined up outside as a mark of respect.

At the emotional memorial service held inside the stadium, football legends including Brendon Batson, Steve Bull and John Barnes turned out for the hugely-respected football great as his family delivered heart-rending tributes.

There were many famous faces in attendance including former Albion manager Ron Atkinson, ex-Villa striker Dwight Yorke and Black Country favourite Don Goodman. Andy Cole and Les Ferdinand were also among the crowd, while an emotional Dion Dublin fought back tears as the tributes were delivered. Wolverhampton songstress Beverley Knight also gave a rousing performance of Going up Yonder.

● A great footballer, a greater man – see pages 17 and 36



Cyrille Regis – a football hero

### BUSINESS

## Shop fitting firm to lay off 50 staff

ONE of Dudley's biggest firms is set to lay off more than 50 staff after a series of major financial losses.

The Alan Nuttall Partnership in Hall Street, which specialises in shop fittings and displays, said the move followed consecutive years of poor performance, which it puts down to 'indecision from key customers'.

A letter to staff from HR manager Sue Judge says the company is proposing 52 redundancies 'because of the sizeable losses incurred during the 2016 and 2017 financial years'.

The firm, founded more than 50 years ago, has clients including M&S, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Asda and Homebase.

### COURT

## Man is accused of a mother's murder

A 50-year-old man has appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court accused of murdering a mother of eight.

Ricardo Wilson, from Broom Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley, spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth. He was remanded in custody to appear again on March 16 for plea. It is alleged that Wilson killed 42-year-old Claire Harris at a house in Cinder Bank, Netherton, on January 24.

### HERITAGE

## Public rally round to repair church clock

A BROKEN church clock in Halesowen will be repaired thanks to a successful fund-raising campaign.

Resident Simon Lucock set up a Just-Giving page to raise £643 to repair the broken Victorian clock at St John the Baptist Church in High Street.

Within 24 hours local people had donated nearly £1,000 to the appeal.

### INSIDE

## MAMMA MIA AT THE GRAND



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# Artistic war memorial to replace missing monument SHELL CORNER TO GET LANDMARK

A STREET corner looks set to finally get a new landmark – decades after the original went missing.

Shell Corner in Halesowen was given its name because of the artillery shell that stood there from 1924. But when the road layout was changed in the 1970s it was never seen again. Now, after years of campaigning, another shell – donated by the Army – is on track to be completed as a tribute to fallen servicemen and women.

Halesowen North ward councillor Stuart Henley, who has led the project, said the shell would be installed by May.

He said: "The shell is historically important to the area. It has taken a long time to bring it back to Shell Corner."

"I have faced a few obstacles along the way, with issues around the design and passing it through the committee."

### Monument

Councillor Henley has now found a contractor to build a brick plinth, which will house the monument, meaning he has been able to set a date for completion.

The shell has been painted by art students at Halesowen College and features silhouettes of soldiers and poppies.

Councillor Henley wants to install metal poppies and barbed wire around the sculpture to enhance the military aspect of the design.

The previous shell mysteriously disappeared after a change to road layouts in the area. The new one is currently being kept safe at the Fixed Wheel Brewery in Blackheath.

### Report by Jamie Brassington

It was donated by a bomb disposal squad in Essex, while the art work took several months to complete.

The shell, which weighs half a tonne, will be installed on the corner of Maple Road and Long Lane.

Councillor Henley is still appealing for funding to complete the project and needs an additional £1,000. Anyone interested in donating can visit the justgiving.com/crowd-funding/returnoftheshell website.

There are several theories as to the origin of the first shell. Some said it was found when the area was bombed during the First World War.

However, Halesowen North's Councillor Hilary Bills said that a shell was placed with a hole cut in the top so people would donate coins that would go to former military personnel.



Councillor Stuart Henley and Scott Povey from the Fixed Wheel Brewery with the new shell monument

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## After latest cases, grieving father says 'enough is enough'



Campaign – MP Eddie Hughes    Victim – John Hickinbottom    Banned driver Craig Edwards    Cyclist death – Kade Scrivens    Rebecca McManus was killed

# Killer drivers 'must face tougher action'

**'WE have to go back to the drawing board' – the father of a student killed by a speeding motorist has called for tougher sentences.**

Gez McManus's 21-year-old daughter Rebecca was waiting at a bus stop when Sukvinder Mannan, who was driving at 101mph, hit and killed her.

The fatal crash in Hagley Road West in Bearwood resulted in 34-year-old Mannan, from Halesowen, being jailed for eight years after admitting causing death by dangerous driving.

The sentence four years ago has been followed by several other death by dangerous driving convictions – none of which have resulted in the maximum 14-year sentence.

Last week Craig Edwards and Kade Scrivens were jailed for less than eight years each for killing behind the wheel.

### Roundabout

Edwards was driving at a speed almost twice the 30 mph limit when he hit grandfather John Hickinbottom in Walsall last June. He was also over the drink drive limit. The 29-year-old, of Cumberland Road, Walsall, received a seven-year jail sentence after admitting causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at the scene and drink driving.

Meanwhile Mr Hickinbottom's family who were in court to watch the proceedings, must attempt to move on without the 74-year-old, of Lilac Grove, Bentley. Granddaughter Jade told the court: "It felt like my world was falling apart without him."

And on the same day of the sentencing, Scrivens, 24, of Booth Street, Handsworth, was given a seven-and-a-half year sentence for killing 59-year-old Nicholas Harrison. He was cycling



Gez McManus lost his daughter when she was hit by a speeding driver

on Midland Road in Darlaston when Scrivens lost control at a roundabout while speeding and hit him on the opposite side of the road on November 22.

Scrivens, who admitted causing death by dangerous driving, then fled the scene to sober up, according to Judge Simon Ward.

In a victim impact statement read out in court, Mr Harrison's brother, Christopher, 70, said his death 'has affected me greatly'. The two cases have triggered a campaign by the Express & Star for tougher sentences on killer drivers. It has been supported Mr McManus, 54, of Balsall Common.

He is campaigning for killer drivers to be banned from the roads for life.

He also says judges should be stricter with their sentences and peo-

ple need to be educated on the dangers of driving dangerously. The Ministry of Justice is proposing for the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving to go up from 14 years' prison to life. But the plan has yet to go before Parliament.

Mr McManus said: "Mr Mannan will get his freedom shortly and be in his early 30s, he will still have a long life ahead of him. He should not be allowed to go behind the wheel again."

"The problem we have is by the time the case gets to the court it is too late, someone has died. People who view it as socially acceptable need to realise it is socially unacceptable."

Mr McManus is starting a charity called Collision and Reducing Death on our Roads. He aims to reach out to young drivers, encouraging them

to drive safely. Eddie Hughes, Walsall North MP, says he will raise the issue in Parliament. He said: "People need to realise that when they are driving their car and are texting, speeding, drinking, that the vehicle has the potential to be a lethal weapon. Tougher sentences need to be put out to show that."

Other sentences given out over the past two years for death by dangerous driving include uninsured driver Jake Nelson, who was given a suspended detention sentence after hitting 39-year-old Neil Perry as he crossed the road in West Bromwich last year.

Nelson, 19, of Hales Road in Wednesbury, was driving 57mph in a 30mph zone.

### Undercutting

Joseph Chance, 25, of Murcroft Road, Stourbridge, and Dylan Stringer, 24, Wychbury Road, Stourbridge, were jailed for eight and six years respectively after killing young mother Nadine Foster while racing at speeds of almost 80mph.

Former Dudley College student Miss Foster, 18, was a front seat passenger in a Ford Focus, driven by boyfriend Stringer, when it hit a wall in Hagley Road, Stourbridge. She died in hospital four days after last April's tragedy, leaving behind her then five-month-old son.

Hospital porter Joshua Harvey was jailed for two years after admitting causing the death of Sean Williams in Wolverhampton by careless driving.

The 23-year-old, of Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park, was undercutting another car when the car he was driving at 48mph in a 30 zone in Lakefield Road, Wednesfield, hit the boy on December 29, just over a year ago.

Figures from the Department of Transport show 54 people died on the roads in the West Midlands in the 12 months up to October 27.

## Campaign launched for longer sentences



The anti-speeding campaign logo

TWO killer drivers who callously left their victims for dead have each been jailed for under eight years, prompting a campaign calling for action.

Banned driver Craig Edwards was locked up for seven years for killing grandfather John Hickinbottom. He lost control of his vehicle and mounted the pavement, knocking down the 74-year-old.

Speeding motorist Kade Scrivens was sentenced to seven and a half years for hitting cyclist Nicholas Harrison. Scrivens was speeding and driving on the wrong side of the road.

Both sentences have been criticised by road safety campaigner Gez McManus and Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes, who is to raise the matter in Parliament. In the meantime the Chronicle's sister newspaper – the Express & Star – has set up a petition Mr McManus, whose 21-year-old daughter Rebecca was killed by a speeding driver in Bearwood four years ago, said: "Enough is enough."

"Something needs to change to stop people getting behind the wheel and driving so dangerously, causing misery to the families of the innocent people killed. If the sentences are not long enough, people will fail to take notice. We have to go back to the drawing board." The two cases were heard before Wolverhampton Crown Court this week.

Meanwhile, launching the campaign, Express & Star editor, Keith Harrison said: "The crime of dangerous driving should be urgently addressed by our lawmakers."

"While the death toll grows, time and time again we see people who are found guilty of this offence handed sentences that are pathetic."

"Government legislation designed to tackle dangerous driving is slowly moving forward, although it is likely to be a while before anything meaningful enters the statute books."

"We need action now. Today the Express & Star and Chronicle are calling on people to sign our petition. Where is the justice for the victims and their families?"

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# It's make or break for Hippodrome revival plan

THE fate of Dudley Hippodrome could be decided in February when council bosses are due to decide if the campaign to save the former theatre has met their requirements.

Campaigners battling to bring the Castle Hill landmark back to the life under the name Black Country Hippodrome, after being given the keys in December 2016 on a five year lease, will have to convince senior Dudley councillors at a cabinet meeting that they have met a set of aims laid out at the start of the project.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "A decision will be made at that meeting. The future of the hippodrome project will be decided there. If they have satisfied the criteria then they can proceed with the project but, if not, then we will have to make decisions."

Black Country Hippodrome Ltd embarked on an ambitious scheme to bring the venue, which once featured such star names as Laurel and Hardy, back as a community resource and theatre. Gordon Downing, one of the directors of the group, believes they have met all but one of the aims.

But they have not been able to clear out the inside of the building because the Health and Safety Executive ruled they could not enter without the correct protection over asbestos fears.

Mr Downing said: "We got a ridiculous situation, where the Health and Safety Executive came to inspect the asbestos but said it was too dangerous to go in."

The previous council administration had planned to level the former bingo hall and make it a public space. More recently Dudley College has shown interest in the site.

# Lobbed brick hits roof of police car

YOBS just missed the windscreen of a police car by inches when they hurled a house brick from a bridge over a main road.

Police described the act, on January 23 near Dudley Port railway station, as 'disgusting'.

The brick hit the roof of the vehicle.

West Midlands Police said officers were heading to help a vulnerable elderly woman at the time of the incident last Tuesday night.

# Gaga in Brum gigs

AMERICAN pop star Lady Gaga is in concert tonight (Thursday) at the Genting Arena. She also had a gig last night in the city centre at the Arena Birmingham.

# Staff suspended over meeting 'leak'

THE SECRETARIES of all seven cabinet members on Sandwell Council have been suspended over accusations that details of a 'top secret' meeting were leaked.

In the latest twist at the crisis-engulfed authority, West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey said the staff members were placed on 'gardening leave' last week, with a view to them being relocated to other jobs.

The suspensions are said to relate to a private meeting that took place the night before an ethics hearing into the conduct of Councillor Ian Jones.

At the hearing last Wednesday, La-

bour councillor Mr Jones was found to have breached the members code of conduct for removing a plot of land from public auction.

Along with Mr Bailey, he has accused Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling of being involved in the suspensions.

"The night before the hearing there was a meeting in the chief executive's conference room that was supposed to be 'top secret'," Mr Jones said.

"It featured a number of members of the ethics committee and council officers. Steve Eling was not happy that details of this meeting were made

public and has taken what can only be described as extreme action," he claimed.

Mr Eling has denied he had anything to do with the suspensions, which he called a human resources matter (HR).

## Allegations

"Members certainly do not deal with staffing issues. There were some people suspended, but to say that I am behind the decision is not true. It is very disappointing that certain people are making such completely unfounded allegations over a HR matter," he said.

# MP says public has right to answers over council

WITH an explosive address in the House of Commons, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris lit the blue touchpaper under Sandwell Council.

The council's internal politics have been elevated to a national level with Mr Morris's intervention on Thursday.

The Conservative MP denounced the authority as 'a stain on the reputation of the local area' and called for council leader Steve Eling to resign immediately during his speech.

Mr Morris also used Parliamentary privilege to highlight allegations surrounding four named councillors - and raised questions over the behaviour of former leader Darren Cooper, who died in March 2016.

The Conservative MP went on to describe Sandwell Council as 'a rotten regime' with a 'culture of fear and bullying'.

He even called for the Government to parachute independent commissioners in to run the Labour-controlled council.

## Power

Mr Morris said: "The reason I decided to call this debate was primarily because I feel that it is within the public interest to do so, for the public to know the answers to these questions of abuse of power, and to ensure that the local authority can start to do what it is supposed to, and provide essential services to the people of Sandwell."

A furious Councillor Eling has vowed to issue a complaint to the Speaker of the Commons. He called the remarks 'disgraceful', adding that he had no intention of quitting his role.

The Conservative MP, who made his comments in an adjournment debate, quoted from the Wragge report of 2016 concerning claims of dodgy land sales and bullying centred around Councillor Mahboob Hussain. He highlighted allegations from January 2017 over land sales involving Councillor Babu Bawa and Councillor Hussain, as well as issues concerning Councillor Derek Rowley and Councillor Mohammad Rouf.

Black Country Labour MPs Tom Watson and John Spellar have questioned some of the statements Mr Morris made on the Commons floor.



Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris called Sandwell Council 'a rotten regime'



Councillor Steve Eling - furious over MP's speech



Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council HQ in Oldbury

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## No Velo this year, new route in 2019

THE Birmingham Velo will not be held this year, organisers have announced, after the event divided opinion in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year.

The event will instead return in 2019, when it will be moved from autumn to spring and see cyclists tackle a different route.

The ride was held for the first time in September but attracted criticism from residents and business owners due to the number of road closures. There were even nails and tacks left on the route.

Around 15,000 riders took part in the 100-mile route last year.

## Royal Mail office saved from closure

A ROYAL Mail delivery office in Oldbury has been saved from closing.

Bosses at the postal service held a consultation over the possibility of closing the site.

Plans were revealed to move the office to Coombs Wood in Halesowen.

But Royal Mail says after careful consideration and feedback from customers, the site will remain in place.

A Royal Mail spokesman said: "This means there will be no change to our mail operations in Oldbury and there will be no impact on the high quality service we offer to our customers."

## Club taps into water sponsor

A WATER company has pledged its support for Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club's race team.

It is the third year that Shropshire-based Wenlock Spring company has lent its support to the sporting club's development programme.

Club chairman Dave Viner said: "This sponsorship is an impressive statement of Wenlock Spring's belief in what we are doing at our cycling club. The renewed backing from our sponsors says a lot about the standard of our young rider development and the efforts that we make."

## A 'despicable' bag thief struck at crem

POLICE are investigating after a woman's bag was snatched while she visited Rowley Regis Crematorium.

The culprit pounced while the woman had her back turned on January 7.

Police sergeant Cheryl Reed called it 'truly despicable'. She said: "The woman was not injured and there was nothing of significant value in her bag but such a theft can leave victims very upset." Call police on 101.

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# Rough sleeper found dead as homeless crisis worsens

**AN INVESTIGATION is under way after a homeless man was found dead in a Dudley residential street.**

The man, known locally as Steve, was found at a derelict plot on Priory Road, Dudley, where the old Duncan Edwards pub used to stand.

Residents said he had been sleeping rough there in a tent for several weeks. Dudley Council's homeless team said they had been trying to help him by giving him food and offering a place to stay. The authority is investigating the cause of death.

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, said: "It is not yet clear exactly what happened to Steve, but it's a scandal homeless people are dying on the streets in Britain today. People had contacted me about Steve and I had talked to Dudley's homelessness team to make sure he was getting help. I think they are working hard to help people, but it is not just a question of emergency accommodation because council and NHS cuts have hit the support and help available.

## Academy gets sports award

ORMISTON Forge Academy in Cradley Heath has been awarded the Youth Sport Trust Silver Quality Mark for its commitment to physical education and sport.

The Youth Sport Trust is a national charity that builds a brighter future for young people through the power of sport. The Quality Mark provides schools with a nationally recognised badge of excellence for the quality of its PE and school sport.

Dawn Benson, leader of the performance faculty, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the Silver Quality Mark from the Youth Sport Trust, which recognises our commitment to delivering the best possible sporting experiences for the young people at our school. There are a whole range of educational, health and wellbeing benefits."

"Benefit changes like housing benefit cuts and sanctions have made it all much worse. The number of people sleeping rough has soared - not just in major cities but even in places like Dudley.

"The Government's policy is to halve it in five years and deal with it by 2027, which I think most people will think is hopeless when people like Steve are sleeping rough on the streets," added the Labour MP.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "Tragically, we can confirm a man who had been sleeping in a tent on the Priory estate was found dead by two Police Community Support Officers on January 21.

"Investigations are still ongoing to determine the cause of death. The man was known to us as a rough sleeper and our officers had been out to visit him several times to offer assistance and shelter."

Home Office figures show the number of people sleeping rough on Britain's streets has rocketed by 73 per cent in three years. In the Black Country the number has tripled since 2011.

## MP leads fight for superfast broadband



**Faster broadband boosts business - Stourbridge MP Margot James, with Kim Mears from Openreach and Cox & Plant managing director Andy Cox and workers from the Black Country firm**

MORE than 98 per cent of homes and businesses in the Black Country can now access 'superfast' broadband, according to new figures.

Internet speeds have been boosted by a roll-out of the technology by the Government and Openreach to try and ensure as many people as possible are able to access superfast broadband.

The Government has achieved its target of ensuring 95 per cent of the country has access to the faster con-

nection. The level is even higher in the Black Country, at 99.2 per cent in Wolverhampton and 99 per cent in Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

Stourbridge MP Margot James, who is also the Government's digital minister, visited storage firm Cox & Plant in the town, which has benefitted hugely from superfast broadband.

She said the task was to ensure everyone who has access to superfast broadband is made aware of how they

can get it. She added: "All they have got to do is contact their provider. So much of it is about raising awareness."

Ms James also insisted she was determined to ensure the technology was available to everyone, including people in rural spots.

Andy Cox, managing director at Cox & Plant, said superfast broadband had made a huge difference to the efficiency of his company as poor technology had been a real 'barrier to growth'.

## Mixed verdicts on services for children

'POSITIVE progress' is being made in improving children's social care services in Dudley, the Department for Education says.

Council leaders have received a letter from the Government department praising their 'firm commitment' to driving improvements that will 'secure high quality children's social care services'.

The letter hailed the 'sustained progress' around workforce issues and recognised reliance on agency workers was 'continuing to reduce'. However, agency rates were still broadly high.

It comes after the council's children's services were rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted in April 2016. Councillor Anne Millward said: "We are pleased with the letter, which recognises continuing improvements."

Meanwhile, widespread and serious failures remain at children's services in Sandwell, an inspection has found, after certain failings were highlighted eight years ago.

Ofsted said some services had deteriorated even further within the department, already rated inadequate.

The concerning findings come ahead of the launch of a new independent trust to take over the running of children's services from April 1. The trust will be headed by former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

## Australian pop star in concert

AUSTRALIAN pop star Natalie Imbruglia is in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday.

The former Neighbours star had a massive hit in 1997 with the song Torn. She has a new album out entitled Male.

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## MP backing Lucy's Law for puppies

AN MP has urged the Government to impose an immediate ban on the sale of puppies by pet shops and other third party commercial breeders.

Ian Austin has backed Lucy's Law, which seeks to tackle irresponsible dog breeding practices and ensure dogs are only available from licensed, regulated breeders or approved rehoming organisations.

The law will help to protect dogs and puppies by making breeders more accountable, and ensuring buyers are shown puppies interacting with their mothers before sale.

Mr Austin, MP for Dudley North, said: "Every year I hear terrible stories of dogs and puppies being treated cruelly and inhumanely for trade."

"I want the Government to crack down on the practices which leads to the unfair treatment of animals."

The Labour MP added: "I'll be backing Lucy's Law and I hope to see a ban on pet shops and commercial dealers irresponsibly selling puppies."

Lucy's Law is named after a cavalier spaniel rescued from a puppy farm cage.

The RSPCA has seen a 132 per cent rise in the number of complaints it has received about the country's multi-million pound black market trade in back street puppy sales over the past five years.

## Camera club show aims to be picture perfect

DUDLEY Camera Club's annual photographic exhibition is being staged in Dudley Archives and Local History Centre.

The photographic exhibition at the centre in Tipton Road will run until February 10.

The display will be open each day except Sunday and there is free admission.

# Dudley's secondary schools are making some progress

## It's a head start for auction sale

A RARE marble bust found in a Halesowen garden is among the items to go under the hammer at an upcoming auction in Shropshire.

Bridgnorth's Perry and Phillips Auctioneers are holding their bi-monthly sale of antiques and collectables on Tuesday and among the items on sale is the bust of eminent Georgian politician Charles James Fox.

It was found in a garden in Halesowen and brought into the Phillips saleroom for valuation, where it is estimated to sell for between £500 and £800.

Perry and Phillips auctioneer John Ridgway said: "The bust was an amazing find and, despite having spent some time outdoors, it is in excellent condition."

"It was made by the famous portrait sculptor Joseph Nollekin, who was regarded as the finest British sculptor of his time."

"George Fox was a very colourful character, a supporter of the French Revolution and a determined opponent of the slave trade - he was portrayed by actor Michael Gambon in the popular film *Amazing Grace*."

The sale runs from 10.30am and viewing is during the weekend and on Monday at Perry and Phillips saleroom in Mill Street.



Auctioneer John Ridgway with the marbles bust of Charles James Fox

## DUDLEY'S secondary schools were second best in the Black Country and Staffordshire for pupil progress, figures show.

The borough was 98th in the country out of 152 local authorities. Progress 8 scores show how well a school is serving its pupils by looking at where these young people started and where they ended up.

In Dudley borough Old Swinford Hospital School in Stourbridge was the top performing school, with a sky high progress 8 measure of 0.77. The school also saw 80 per cent of 81 pupils who took GCSE exams achieve the benchmark grades, while its attainment 8 score - which measures results across pupils' best eight subjects - was also the borough's highest at an average of 62.5.

Other top performers included Windsor High School in Halesowen, The Earls High School in Dudley, Redhill School in Stourbridge and Bishop Milner School.

Dudley also featured one school that was considered 'underperforming' by Department for Education ratings. The Holly Hall Academy in Dudley had a progress 8 score of -0.58, with an average Attainment 8 score of 37.9. Less than a quarter of 140 pupils who took GCSE exams achieved grade 9-5 in both English and maths. The school was rocked at the start of this term when principal Rob Hatch quit.

### Worst

The worst ranked school in Dudley was The Coseley School, which closed last summer. Its final results showed a progress 8 score of -0.73, with just 16 per cent of 80 pupils taking GCSE exams achieving grade 9-5 in both English and maths GCSEs.

Secondary schools in Sandwell continued to struggle. The authority was ranked 124th out of 152 on the progress 8 measure. But Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick maintained its position at the top in Sandwell with a performance that moved the school into the country's top 12 per cent on the progress 8 measure. In best-performing Wolverhampton the top school ranked by attainment 8 was Wolverhampton Girls' High School.

## Folk to Shake The Chains

FIVE of the leading contemporary folk singer-songwriters and musicians are getting together for the Shake The Chains concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday night.

The line-up includes BBC 2 Folk Award winners Nancy Kerr, Hannah Martin and Greg Russell with guests Steve Knightley and Grace Petrie. The concert follows the Shake The Chains album, released in response to a year of political upheaval. Tickets are £20.50, see thsh.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 780 3333.

The Symphony Hall hosts the Transatlantic Sessions on February 10 including fiddler Aly Bain and dobro master Jerry Douglas, plus guests Suzy Bogguss and The Secret Sisters, among others. Tickets £33.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Rich list? That could refer to me – and you

A STUDY by Oxfam, which claims that the richest one per cent of the world owns 82 per cent of the world's resources, has sparked a predictable outcry on social media.

"The greedy rich should pay more tax to help the poor and downtrodden" seems to be the upshot of it, and certainly when confronted with such stark figures it seems hard to disagree.

I do wonder, though, whether the professional malcontents busy working themselves into such a fury have actually paused to think about just who the richest one per cent of the population are.

No doubt images of Sir Philip Green, polishing his medallion while soaking up the sun on his private yacht, spring to mind. Or perhaps Sir Richard Branson on his private island, and a grouchy Lord Sugar barking orders at his underlings from his raised chair in the boardroom.

And of course, no list of wealthy pantomime villains would be complete without special mention of Rupert Murdoch, who seems to be to blame for most things these days.

And yes, all of these fall into the richest one per cent, but they are not alone. According to the Global Rich List, which defines such things, anybody earning more than £22,706 a year is in the richest one per cent. I wonder how many of the people angrily pointing the finger at the "greedy rich" realise that they too are members of that exclusive club?

More to the point, how many of these members of the richest one per cent, particularly those who work in the public sector, have been on protest marches demanding an end to "austerity", and an inflation-busting pay rise?

If the Oxfam report tells us anything, it is that most people in this country are pretty well-off, and maybe a little less moaning wouldn't go amiss when there are so many people in the world who really do have something to complain about.

By the way, the chief executive of Oxfam earned £127,753 last year.

□ □ □

INTERESTINGLY, the Oxfam report also coincides with a new report by the Rowntree Foundation which says more than half of children in London and Birmingham are living in poverty.

The study defines poverty as having an income, after housing costs, of less than £248 a week, which is a little confusing.

Given the stratospheric cost of housing at the moment, particularly in London, how many of these supposedly impoverished households are also in the richest one per cent of the world?

## Clapping at end of Churchill film – and why not?



Gary Oldham as Winston Churchill in the film Darkest Hour



Lord Jim O'Neill now believes booming global trade will "dwarf" Brexit ill effects



Prince William 'laughed off' suggestions he paid £180 for his new shaven-headed look

# Patriotic nation is entitled to applaud

A READER contacts me with yet another report of a cinema audience applauding at the end of Darkest Hour starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill. I'm not surprised. These are self-selecting audiences with a pro-Churchill bias and, having heard of the reactions elsewhere, they are primed to clap.

BUT there's surely more to it than that. Britain is just about the only European country proud of its part in the 20th century. And despite half-a-century of post-imperial breast-beating and institutionalised shame, we are, in the main, a patriotic and sentimental nation. We saved the world. We are entitled to clap a little.

JUST as global warming may be cooled by a coming mini-ice age, so Brexit may be mollified by a general improvement in world trade. So says the former treasury minister and Remainer Lord Jim O'Neill. He now believes that booming global trade will "dwarf" any ill effects caused by leaving the EU. In other words, after all the froth and fury, we may hardly notice any difference. The millennium bug revisited.

PRINCE William has 'laughed off' suggestions that he paid £180 for his new shaven-headed look. This is only a theory but I'd be surprised if he paid anything. His wife's hair stylist apparently went to Kensington Palace to give HRH the razor-cut treatment. The stylist is probably well-pleased with all the publicity and would not dream of sending a bill.

IN case William is remotely interested, in real life, for a Number 3 cut which is not quite so brutal as his, I pay £5 (admittedly with the Nearer My God To Thee discount).

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SOCIAL media ought to come with a warning: "Signing up to this will ruin your entire life." Latest victim is Amina Khan, L'Oreal's hijab-wearing model who has resigned after somebody uncovered anti-Israel tweets she posted three years ago. How long will it be before nobody on social media will be able to do anything in the public eye because of their hasty opinions of yore?

A FORMER SAS soldier who took part in the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege is homeless and unable to get a council house. In contrast, one of the embassy terrorists, released from jail after 28 years, is said to be living rent-free in London. Surprised? Me neither. It is 100 years since the prime minister Lloyd George promised "homes fit for heroes." It was a lie then and it's a lie now.

THE Church of England is a broad church with half a millennium's worth of prayers and liturgy to cover every aspect of human life. This probably explains why its House of Bishops has decided there's no need to create a new form of service to welcome transgender worshippers; the baptismal service can be adapted. But I bet the bishops considered not only the theology but the maths. According to official statistics, no more than six out of every 1,000 Brits are transgender. No more than 20 in every 1,000 Brits are regular churchgoers. So the number of transgender people wanting a new form of service is vanishingly small, especially when you divide it among England's 10,449

church parishes. And yet who would put money on the bishops' decision being the end of it? The campaigning group OneBodyOneFaith has already accused the bishops of "kicking trans people into the long grass" and the lesson of the Church's recent history is that once it is accused of kicking anybody, the only option is a meek apology and surrender.

OUR changing language. According to police, a gang of violent burglars in the Black Country "scope areas for homes that could be potential targets." Scope? The trouble with this word is not that it means nothing but that it can mean several things. You can scope a property using binoculars but you can also scope it through online research. Joe Public, on being warned of "scoping," may start keeping an eye peeled for dodgy-looking blokes with field glasses when he should be removing images of his possessions from Facebook.

MIND you, if I were in charge, burglary would vanish overnight. This is because I'd have serial burglars taken into a field and shot. Why? Because they are the lowest of the low. They are worse than most murderers (who usually kill in a moment of passion) and worse than many paedophiles (who clearly have mental problems). What is more, there is hard evidence that serial burglars kill people. Home Office figures show that old people who have been burgled are much more likely to die sooner than others of similar age. At best, being burgled causes long-lasting trauma. At worst, it shortens your life. Yet police forces everywhere increasingly treat it as a minor crime and when I suggest executing serial burglars, people think I'm joking. Absolutely not.

## TALKING POINT



# Cashing in on the sick with fines for parking

PARKING fines and charges have been in the news lately. Recently, The Chronicle revealed that hospital trusts were making thousands from charging staff and visitors to park, with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, for example, raking in £1.1m.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust made £2.4m and Dudley Group NHS Trust profited to the tune of £471,000, although most of that revenue was taken by a private finance initiative firm.

Add the £2.3m made by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and you can see why the chief executive of the Patients' Association Rachel Power claims the charges equate to being penalised for being ill.

Spare a thought in particular for the heroic, overworked and under-paid employees within our crumbling NHS, who deserve a bigger wage packet, yet find most of their already hard-earned cash spent on the privilege of going to work and potentially saving someone else's life.

Away from hospitals, it was reported that, to Walsall Council alone, more than £1,000 a day was being paid every day in parking penalties.

One Liberal Democrat campaigner said drivers were being treated as cash cows. And, after an experience that happened to myself, I can only concur.

You see, I was given a penalty charge notice half an hour before my time in a car park had elapsed.

How can this be? It appears that our 'crime' was to top-up the two hours we had already paid for, thus spending more than the allocated time in said car park. I have paid the fine – £25, but doubling to a barely affordable £50 if not settled within 14 days. But I have also exercised our right to appeal.

It does beg the question of how many other unsuspecting motorists – simply in the wrong place at the wrong time – have been caught this way. On only our second visit to the town in question, we were oblivious to the regulations and not aware of any advisory signs, so hopefully common sense will prevail.

However, it is galling that there are people out there who knowingly disregard the law and even ignore any punishment that comes their way.

Campaigners claim payments are just another way of making money from hard-working people, while authorities argue that income generated from parking fines is ploughed back into our highways and making them safer.

Judging by the number of potholes still on our roads – even after The Chronicle's extensive campaign – one could argue otherwise.

MARK SHIPP

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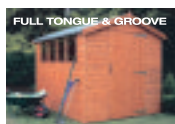
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## Hospital parking fees are excessive

AFTER having my wife in hospital for a week, I feel, it is time I joined our local MP Ian Austin in his protest about the car parking fees at Russells Hall Hospital and all the regions' hospitals.

My wife was admitted on Tuesday last and I have visited her every day since, so at £5.60 a time that adds up to £39.20 per week. If I could afford to visit twice a day, that would be a grand total of £78.40 or £319.60 per month and that is roughly half my pension gone.

We have no choice in paying this as wait-

ing time in A&E can be as long as two and a half hours and on Wednesday myself and my wife sat from 1pm to 7pm, just waiting for a box of tablets from the pharmacy.

I am certain that a good many of your readers will feel the same way as I do. I would not mind if the £5.60 ticket lasted from midnight to midnight and allowed you to come and go in between, or would that be asking too much? I hope all readers will back Ian Austin and myself in this protest.

TONY DAVIES  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a

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story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Prince Harry is credit to country, unlike Blair

WHAT a great bloke Harry is helping our war heroes to get their lives back together, and what a difference to the man that caused their problems.

Tony Blair sent our troops into Iraq to please George Bush, costing billions of pounds and hundreds of lives just to get a pat on the back from his

American master. He is still costing this country millions of pounds for his protection, and he is still poking his nose where it's not wanted (in Brexit negotiations).

He should be arrested, locked up and tried for war crimes.

M L RHODES  
Stourbridge

## Bus service is 'appalling'

SOMETHING has to be done about the appalling no9 service from Stourbridge to Birmingham.

It boasts a seven minute service but you can be left waiting for 30 mins then three or four come in together and then turn round and go out together leaving people standing.

I appreciate that there can be traffic hold ups en route but the problem is made worse by the display times on the so-called 'real time' board which shows a bus is due in so many minutes, then there's no bus!

This happens time and time again. Better to say there won't be a bus for 30 mins, then you know where you are.

Better still couldn't the bus company operate a more local bus, say from Stourbridge to Halesowen or Quinton.

PAT HUGHES  
Lye

## Thanks to all who helped

I would like to thank everyone who came to my wife's aid when she had a blackout in Brettell Lane, Amblecote on January 15. The staff at the Lidl store were excellent, as were the two ladies in the ambulance who came to the 999 call from the Lidl lady. Russells Hall's A&E staff were excellent. To everyone involved, God bless you all. You will always be our A-Teams.

PATRICK AND  
DORIS HADEN  
Wordsley

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

# Cost of funerals is set to increase across Sandwell

**THE COST of dying is set to rise in Sandwell borough as council bosses propose to charge families more for burials and cremation.**

Under new plans, burials will rise by £63 for adults and £59 for children at Sandwell cemeteries from April. The measures were set to be decided at Sandwell Council's cabinet meeting last night (Wednesday).

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "The prices have increased due to inflation, but this is not because of cost-cutting plans. We haven't got a great fee hike on anything."

## 60s reunion swings into the Grand

A HOST of stars from the swinging 60s turn back the clock to pop's greatest era for The Sensational 60s Experience at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday night.

The line-up includes Mike D'Abo from Manfred Mann, Chris Farlowe, Herman's Hermits, The Fortunes and the New Amen Corner.

It will mark the first time in around 50 years since the writer of the classic Handbags and Gladrags (D'Abo) and the first person to sing a hit version (Farlowe) have been on the same stage. Expect to hear such hits as The Mighty Quinn, Out Of Time, Storm in a Teacup, I'm Into Something Good, and Bend Me Shape Me. See [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) for further details or call the box office on 01902 429212.

The tour is visiting Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on March 2, but with Mike Pender instead of D'Abo.

Deputy leader Syeda Khatun said the decision to increase charges was not taken lightly. She explained: "In the face of increasing Government cuts to the council's budget and the increasing cost of delivering the service, no decision to increase charges is taken lightly."

### Difficult

"These small increases in our charges enable us to continue to deliver excellent bereavement related services to those families who need it most at difficult moments in their lives. We will continue to invest in our facilities which are considered to be among the best nationally. Overall Sandwell's bereavement related fees still continue to be significantly lower when compared locally."

Sandwell is the latest Black Country authority to propose an increase in burial and cremation charges. In December, Dudley Council tabled to plans increase charges for adult burials by £78. Dudley bosses also said the increases were down to inflation.

In Sandwell adult burial currently costs £2,115.61, but under the new plans, the price will rise by £63.39 to £2,179.

## Duncan tribute will go to Munich



Rose Cook-Monk signs the book of remembrance honouring Duncan Edwards

PEOPLE from all over the country have signed a book of remembrance in honour of football legend Duncan Edwards.

The book - Dudley's Tribute To Duncan - is being taken to Munich, the scene of the air disaster that caused the England and Manchester United player's death. It will be handed over as part of a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the disaster in Germany.

The accident on February 6, 1958, claimed the lives of seven other members of the famous Busby Babes team, along with club officials, fans, journalists and air crew. Duncan died from his injuries aged just 21.

The book will be taken to by Rose Cook-Monk and Andy Monk, of the Duncan Edwards Foundation. They will visit two nurses who looked after Duncan and attend the opening of a memorial garden at the now disused airfield.

A minute's silence is to be observed at Manchester United's home Premier League match against Huddersfield on February 3 in memory of Dudley-born Duncan Edwards and the other victims of the Munich Air Disaster.

Fans will also pay their respects outside the ground from 1.30pm with their annual event consisting of readings and prayers under the Munich plaque. A special ceremony is also to be held inside Old Trafford on Tuesday, February 6, on the exact 60th anniversary of the crash from 2.45pm.

## 100th crime puts burglar back in prison

A 'CAREER criminal' from Stourbridge is back behind bars after committing his 100th offence.

Ian Taylor and an unknown accomplice slipped into a house in Bradley Road, Stourbridge, while its occupants slept during the early hours of February 9 last year, possibly via an open kitchen window.

Wolverhampton Crown court was told the pair moved a CCTV camera with a line prop to evade being caught on camera but did not spot other cameras. The footage of them at the property led to the capture of the prolific thief, who stolen from the house £20 worth of alcohol, £10 cash and a purse containing credit cards.

Mr Duncan Craig, prosecuting, said that when police reviewed the CCTV footage an officer recognised the offender, even though his face was covered. The other burglar has not been traced. Taylor had a total of 39 previous convictions involving 99 offences, including 15 burglaries. The court heard that he had been dogged by a heroin habit for much of his life.

Mr Richard Davenport, representing the 39-year-old, revealed that Taylor's partner was pregnant with their first child and said he had started treatment in an attempt to give up drugs.

Taylor, of Milton Close, Amblecote, admitted burglary and was jailed for 32 months.

## 'Nick nick' joker Jim promises to be unPC

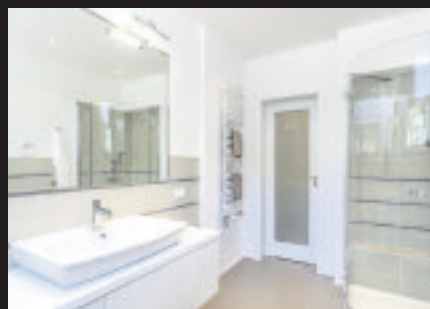
CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson brings his 'On The Road Again' tour to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight (Thursday).

The adults only show promises to be outrageous and very unPC.

See [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) for further details or call the box office on 01902 429212.

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# Wards commit more mixed-sex breaches

## Farewell to devoted Baggie



Richard Eades was a hugely popular figure with Albion staff and fans. Albion players past and present joined friends and family in saying farewell to a much-loved referee and mascot at his funeral.

Former striker Lee Hughes and current players Jonny Evans, Chris Brunt and James Morrison attended the service for Richard Eades at St Bartholomew's Church in Wednesbury.

Albion shirts and scarves were numerous among the crowd paying their respects to the popular father-of-two. The church was full

The 42-year-old died suddenly last month. He had spent nearly 30 years involved with Albion in a variety of roles - from ground staff, to coaching and in recent years as mascots, including Baggie Bird, Baggie Junior, and from 2007, Albi.

He also played and coached and was manager of Boing FC - Albion's official supporters' football team - and served as a highly-respected Birmingham County FA referee.

HOSPITALS in the Black Country breached mixed-sex accommodation rules on 133 occasions in three months - up a third from the same period the year before.

The figures for the last three months of last year are up from 80 over the same period in 2016.

Commonly, the rules are breached by members of the opposite sex sleeping in shared ward accommodation.

However, two hospital trusts say the breaches were caused by patients overstaying in shared-sex intensive care and high dependency units, where a four-hour target applies to move patients to wards once they become stable.

The figures released by the NHS claim to show the 'total occurrences of unjustified mixing in relation to sleeping accommodation'.

### Demand

Sandwell General Hospital, managed by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, was the worst offender with 95 breaches, although there were none in the month of December.

It was followed by Manor Hospital in Walsall, managed by Walsall Healthcare NHS Group, with 22 breaches and Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, managed by the Dudley Group NHS, which had 14 breaches.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We did not report any mix sex breaches on a ward. The ten breaches in December occurred on our high dependency unit."

"Once a patient has been identified as sufficiently stable to be transferred to a ward, this must be done within four hours. The breaches in December occurred because of the high demand for inpatient beds which meant that these patients were not transferred within four hours."

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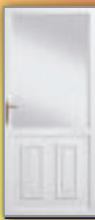
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# Hugh's joy at early Sportive sign-ups

BLACK Country cycling legend Hugh Porter has urged people to sign up to this year's Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive.

Early entries for the event have already topped last year's total at the same stage.

But Hugh has urged more people to sign up for the event – in order to reach 1,000 riders taking part.

The sportive starts at Dudley Kingswinford rugby club and heads out into the Shropshire

Hills taking in the Long Mynd, Stiperstones and The Wrekin. Last year's event raised £28,000 for Compton Hospice.

Hugh said: "We got 740 doing it last year. I have a big ambition to reach the magic 1,000. At the end of January last year we had 98 entered, this year we've already got 156."

The event on May 20 has a choice of three distances. See [www.roundthewrekin.co.uk](http://www.roundthewrekin.co.uk) for further details.



Lisa Bockhoefer of Compton Hospice, Hugh Porter and Marston's MD Richard Westwood celebrate the money raised by the cycling event

# Record passenger numbers at airport despite Monarch loss

BIRMINGHAM Airport has unveiled its best set of passenger figures, as nearly 13 million people passed through the terminals of the Midlands gateway in 2017. But it will struggle to match that in 2018, due to the collapse of Monarch and loss of its 1.8 million passengers a year.

In total, 12,983,436 passengers travelled through the airport over the course of the calendar year, in excess of 1.3m more people than in 2016. In the busiest month, August, when almost 1.5m passengers were recorded.

David Winstanley, chief operating officer, said: "Last year we celebrated the busiest 12

months in our history. During 2017, we saw the launch of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays and the return of British Airways and bmi regional. The year was indeed one of celebration but also commiseration as we sadly saw the demise of a long-established airline, Monarch. This airline carried an average of 5,000 passengers per day from Birmingham but we have seen some existing carriers and new carriers pick up almost all of this capacity."

The airport will regain transatlantic services in May when Primera Air launches flights to New York and Toronto, though they have shelved plans for a Boston route.

# Expert fears Carillion is the 'tip of the iceberg'

**PROBLEMS** at Carillion are 'just the tip of the iceberg' according to an insolvency expert.

They are warning the group's 30,000 subcontractors should expect 'minimal to no returns'. The Wolverhampton-based construction and services giant is thought to owe around £1 billion to thousands of 'subbies' and suppliers after its collapse.

Julie Palmer, partner at Begbies Traynor, a leading independent insolvency firm, said: "When a major contractor like Carillion falls over, the domino effect is huge. I fear that the issues we've heard about so far may only be the tip of the iceberg."

"Around 30,000 subcontractors are currently bearing the brunt of Carillion's collapse, many of which haven't been paid by the group for 120 days. Secured creditors will be paid first."

"Unfortunately, most subcontractors will find themselves right at the bottom of the pile, meaning the vast majority are likely to see little or no return."

Construction and services group Kier has taken on around 200 Carillion employees as it picks up that company's share of work on HS2 and smart motorway projects.

## Jobs

A new Government-run company is being set up to take over Carillion's prison contracts, saving around a thousand jobs.

Some 300 smaller rail suppliers hit by the company's collapse are to be paid arrears they are owed following an agreement between the Official Receiver's special manager PwC and Network Rail for the period from Christmas to January 15. All certified work after January 15 will see suppliers to rail projects paid until further notice and Carillion rail employees paid until at least mid-April.

Carillion has been accused of trying to 'wiggle out' of its obligations to pensioners while paying out tens of millions in dividends for shareholders and 'handsome pay packets' for bosses.

The Commons Work and Pensions Committee criticised the collapsed outsourcing giant after publishing a letter from Robin Ellison, chairman of trustees of Carillion's pension scheme, which gives an account of the firm's pension scheme.



Frank Field – pensions

Carillion's liquidation left in its wake a £900 million debt pile, a £590 million pension deficit reported by the firm, and hundreds of millions of pounds in unfinished public contracts.

Mr Ellison's letter suggests the pension deficit could be even higher at £990 million, the committee said.

Carillion has been 'falling short' of what trustees expected it to contribute to pension schemes since 2008, the MPs said. The company cited cash flow problems as a reason for not making higher pensions contributions in 2011 and 2013, but paid more than £70 million in dividends in both those years.

In a damning assessment, committee chair Frank Field said: "It's clear that Carillion has been trying to wriggle out of its obligations to its pensioners for the last 10 years."

"The purported cash flow problems did of course not prevent them shelling out dividends and handsome pay packets for those at the top. This culminated in negotiating deficit contributions away entirely last autumn to enable more borrowing. Remarkably, this was endorsed by the trustees and the Pensions Regulator."

Meanwhile, the accountancy watchdog is to open an investigation into KPMG over its audits at Carillion. The Financial Reporting Council said it will open an investigation under the Audit Enforcement Procedure.

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# Have you got any hidden vintage treasures?

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



IS it possible that somewhere in your house, garage, shed or even garden there lies some hidden treasure?

I don't mean a Viking horde or a forgotten collection of diamond jewellery – although that would be very nice and would certainly attract some attention in the saleroom – but items that may have lain undiscovered for many years and might be worth a good deal.

A number of pieces sold in the saleroom have been 'discovered' in relatively odd places and in some cases considered to be of fairly little value by their owners.

A prime example is, of course, the Scrimshaw walking cane that we sold for a staggering £47,000 – it was found on top of a wardrobe and its owner thought it might possibly be worth a fiver – and also most certainly one of the lots coming up in next week's sale.

A marble bust of eminent Georgian politician George Fox, one of Tuesday's 'stars', was found in a garden!

The bust was made by famous sculptor Joseph Nollekins and is estimated to sell for between £500 to £800 – despite having spent some considerable time as a 'garden ornament' it is in excellent condition.

Another surprise was a stunning collection of silver 'apostle' spoons discovered at the back of a drawer, having lain there for some years.

The spoons turned out to be extremely valuable, one dating back to the reign of Henry V111 and probably made for a member of his court.

The spoon collection (which were in great condition, I used the Henry one to eat my breakfast with the morning before the auction!) in total sold for in excess of an amazing £20,000.

Then there was a superb eighteenth century sundial, again found in a garden, which netted more than £2,000, and another garden find – a cast-iron decorated bench which had been modelled on those lining the London embankment and made a very healthy £800.

Of course these are not everyday finds but they proved to be the source of considerable cash windfalls . . . so start looking, you never know what you may unearth!

\* The February Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth this Tuesday from 10.30am. Viewing is this weekend and on Monday and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at [www.perryandphillips.co.uk](http://www.perryandphillips.co.uk). Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

\* Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.

# Embellishing garments still order of the day



Eye-catching Japanese embroidery

EMBELLISHED garments are the order of the day, embroidery features on everything, all your favourite garments, the white cotton shirt, denim jacket, velvet dress, back in the high street stores but with elaborate stitched designs.

Embroidery can be traced back as far as ancient China (5th to 3rd century BC), where they used to employ various hand-sewing techniques to patch, repair or decorate their clothing. In a garment from Sweden (300 to 700 AD), the edges of the trimmings are strengthened with running stitch, back stitch, stem stitch, tailor's buttonhole stitch, and whip-stitching, but it is uncertain whether this work is decorative trim or just to reinforce the seams. Eventually it became a way of distinguishing between different classes of society, defining wealth and status.

The art of embroidery didn't stop there, it spread worldwide with each culture embroidering patterns that were unique to them.

In the 19th century, with the industrial revolution came mechanical ways to stitch, until then it was all done by hand. Frenchman Josue Heilmann invented a hand em-

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



broinery machine nearly 20 years before the first sewing machine was patented in 1846. Heilmann's embroidery machine consisted of a frame to hold the fabric, a needle assembly and a handle to work the needle. Instead of taking the needle to the fabric, fabric moved to meet the needle, which had a point at each end and an eye in the middle. The process allowed stitching in any direction.

### Crank

In 1863, Isaak Groebli invented the Schiffli embroidery machine which operated using a two-thread system and required someone to turn a crank in order for the machine to work. Using the machine was still considered painstaking but it meant that you could create identical garments again and again.

Today top end designers such as Stella McCartney and Alexander McQueen are using

embroidery in their newest catwalk offerings and the high-street offers a vast choice of styles along with other recent trends such as embroidered patches and personalised logos.

Some shops are personalising garments while you wait. Tommy Hilfiger and Polo Ralph Lauren on Regent Street are offering this service. A few taps on a tablet in store and you can be leaving with a fully logoed item and Louis Vuitton offer monogramming on their luggage.

According to statistics, a large percentage of shoppers are happy to pay premium prices to make their purchase unique.

This bodes well for companies such as Unmade, the London based manufacturer, who can create customised knitwear in hours using new technologies to allow knitting machines to create bespoke pieces at the same price as making thousands of the same design.

Will we soon be designing our garment, including our personalised logos, ordering online and receiving it the next day. Now that would be something different and something you can't return if you get it wrong.



Keep away from the 3Ps – prepared, processed and packaged foods



Choose healthy breakfast options, such as porridge, yogurt, organic eggs and fruit

# Tips to boost diet and exercise of your partner



Nutrition coach Pippa Campbell

**DO you constantly worry about how your partner's lifestyle choices may be affecting their health?**

Your fears may be more common than you think.

A new study has reveals it's a fear one in three of us have, with two thirds of people putting their loved one's health ahead of their own.

The average Briton also worries about their partner's wellbeing more than twice a week, with nearly a third discussing these concerns on a weekly basis with their other half.

The study by Bupa Health Clinics found that people often prioritise their partner's health above their own, because they believe they're healthy and don't need to worry about their own wellbeing, saying they'll address their own health issues if and when they need to.

So what can you do to ease your worries in the meantime? We asked health experts to give us five sneaky ways to improve your partner's health at home.

**1. Prepare a healthy bedtime snack**  
One of the top concerns is that a partner isn't getting enough sleep. As well as encouraging loved ones to get to bed at a

By Lisa Salmon

reasonable hour, nutrition and weight loss coach Pippa Campbell points out that sugary snacks before bedtime can be a recipe for poor sleep.

"Starchy carbs and sugars will raise your blood sugar and delay sleep," she explains.

"Later, when blood-sugar drops too low (hypoglycemia), you may wake up and be unable to fall back asleep.

"I recommend not eating carbs or sugar before bed usually, but if you're feeling stressed, a small pre-bedtime protein or carb snack might help (around 10pm). In these instances, I advise my clients to eat some almond butter on a small rye or gluten-free cracker."

**2. Cook a healthy breakfast for them**  
Nutritionist Dr Marilyn Glenville, author of Natural Alternatives To Sugar, says that another handy tip for helping to keep loved ones healthy is to check that they're choosing healthy breakfast options, such as wholegrain cereals like porridge, organic live natural dairy products like yogurt, organic eggs and fruit.

"Sugar-laden cereals will cause blood-sugar to rise sharply and drop quite quickly, making people feel hungry more quickly," she says.

**3. Alter their diet**

If you're concerned about your partner's weight, altering their diet could help to shift the pounds.

"Keep them away from the 3Ps – prepared, processed and packaged foods, as well as saturated fats (margarine, pastries, crisps) alcohol, wheat and gluten-containing foods, and foods that increase blood-sugar quickly (sweets, juices, bread).

"They can also increase sources of antioxidants by munching on berries."

**4. Don't opt for sugar-free alternatives**

If you're selecting sugar-free or low-fat alternatives, in the hope they can help your partner shift those stubborn pounds, you may actually be setting yourself up for a fall. Such foods could be increasing belly fat, as they'll usually contain artificial sweeteners, which can slow down the digestive process and increase appetite.

**5. Set exercise reminders on their phone**

If your partner has a desk job, they may have a low step count, which can affect how much exercise they are getting. Sitting for long periods decreases activity of the fat-burning enzyme lipoprotein lipase. Encourage your partner to walk around the office more and to take their lunch break.

# Caring UK want global ban on the ivory trade

WHEN it comes to banning the trade of ivory around the world, the UK cares.

A consultation saw more than 60,000 Brits respond and, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the vast majority are in favour of ending the ivory trade. It comes at a crucial time for the debate, as Environment Secretary Michael Gove prepares his department's consultation response.

## Antiques

Mr Gove has vowed that the UK will be 'front and centre' of global efforts to end the trade in ivory, which is linked to the deaths of 55 elephants a day. MPs in the Black Country – including John Spellar and Ian Austin – are among those to call for a total ban. Technically it has been illegal to trade ivory since 1990, but the UK law allows trade in 'antiques' carved before 1947, or items worked before 1990 that have Government certificates.

The World Wide Fund for Nature chief executive Tanya Steele said: "The scale of the public response – including over 60,000 who signed a WWF petition – shows just how strongly the British public feel about the need to end this mindless slaughter."

A pledge to ban the ivory trade was dropped from the Conservative Party manifesto last year, a decision which Labour's Dudley North MP Mr Austin wants to see addressed.

"Something needs to be done to stop the killing of tens and thousands of elephants at the hands of poachers," he said. "It's wrong that the Tories dropped their pledge for a total ban in the UK so I'm backing the campaign by Action for Elephants to put it back on the agenda."

Saba Douglas-Hamilton, who runs the Save The Elephants charity, has warned that populations across Africa have shrunk by a third, driven by the high value of ivory, particularly in China.



Conservationist Saba Douglas-Hamilton with elephants during a visit at West Midland Safari Park

# More complaints to police over lewd behaviour in public

THE number of reports police receive of people having sex and voyeurism in public have gone up over three years, new figures reveal.

West Midlands Police received 78 calls from the public last year, figures which were up from 62 in 2015 and 58 in 2016.

They included 36 in Sandwell, 22 in Walsall, 13 in Wolverhampton and seven in Dudley.

Most of the reports received were classified as antisocial behaviour, a concern for safety and suspicious circumstances. However, in only 16 did officers carry out any action after receiving a complaint.

## Swinging

In most no trace was found of the reported incident, there was no police attendance or it was a 'false call with good intent'.

The figures were acquired under a Freedom of Information request.

On a website called Swinging Heaven, the Swan Pool car park at Sandwell Valley Park is listed by users as a frequently used hotspot, and in Wolverhampton, the Tettenhall Pool car park was also highlighted as a well-used site.

# Primark to expand into former BHS at Merry Hill

THE owners of Merry Hill shopping centre have revealed major expansion plans for Primark that will finally see the centre's empty former BHS unit come back into use.

The budget fashion chain is expanding to take on the whole of the lower floor of the BHS store opposite, which has been unoccupied since the collapse of the department store chain 17 months ago.

It will expand Primark's footprint at Merry Hill by around 70 per cent, making it the latest in a series of major flagship stores at the shopping centre.

Nick Round, regional director at Merry Hill owners intu, said: "The bigger store will enable Primark to have its entire range on show, which is clearly important for a chain that is focused on its shops rather than the internet."

He said the expanded store, which will offer around 60,000 sq ft of shopping space, would be focused on the customer experience, making a visit to Primark a more enjoyable experience.

## Confidence

The deal follows talks between intu and Primark that have been going on since the property group bought the Merry Hill centre back in 2014.

Mr Round said the expansion plan was a 'vote of

By Simon Penfold

confidence' in the future of the Black Country's biggest shopping centre.

It comes as intu moves ahead with a £100 million investment and expansion plan, including a new cinema, restaurants and expanded shops for major retail chains, including the conversion of the former Sainsbury's supermarket into a major flagship outlet for fashion chain Next.

As well as the Next outlet – which will be one of its biggest stores in the country when it opens later this year – River Island, Topshop and Topman, and JD Sports have also doubled their space at Merry Hill.

Mr Round said: "An increasing number of retailers are investing in new space at intu Merry Hill, reflecting the genuine confidence in the destination."

# Arrest as body found

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a woman was found dead in Birmingham.

The body of the 61-year-old was discovered in South Road, Erdington, at around 2am on Monday. An investigation has been launched and police are urging anyone with information to come forward.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Police are investigating the death of a 61-year-old woman from Erdington after a body was found in South Road. A 52-year-old man from South Road has been arrested on suspicion of murder and remains in police custody this morning."

Investigations are on-going. Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101, quoting log 153 of January 20 or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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Initial Arrangement Fee	£149.00

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Cost of Credit	£1,672.19
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# Some great gardens to see across the world



IF you're planning a holiday to take in some stunning gardens, check out these three locations for flora and fauna, plus when to go and what you'll see.

## GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey and the neighbouring Channel Islands off the Normandy coast are in the sunniest spot in the British Isles, claiming more than 2,000 hours of sunshine per year.

With such a temperate climate, there are blooms all over the island's 24 square miles, including more than 1,000 window boxes, hanging baskets and other planters in the capital St Peter Port (pictured above) alone, providing a colourful accessory to this pretty town's cobbled streets and picture postcard marina.

And that's before you find an array of flora and fauna on the island's historic Candie Gardens.

Walkers can wind their way on a cliff-top path along the south coast. Along the way you'll see delicate white sea campion, clusters of pale yellow Alexanders (horse parsley) and inhale the scent of wild garlic, also known as three-cornered leek.

In summer the banks of the paths are splashed with pink and purple wild orchids, pink foxgloves and an array of other wildflowers.

**When to go:** Late spring, when a profusion of tulips and wildflowers come into bloom, and throughout summer when there's a programme of 'open garden' events, talks and guided walks. For details go to visit-guernsey.com and floralguernsey.co.uk.

## CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Aside from the mouth-watering food and elegant wine, the stunning rocky scenery of Table Mountain and the 12 Apostles, Cape Town – and the wider region of South Africa's Western Cape – is also home to some amazing flora and fauna, including its native flower, the protea.



On the verdant slopes of Table Mountain, just 13km from the city centre, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, one of the world's top horticultural hotspots, contains more than 7,000 species of plants from South Africa.

This 36-hectare garden, part of a nature reserve established in 1913 to promote, conserve and display the extraordinarily rich and diverse flora of southern Africa, was the first botanic garden in the world to be devoted to a country's indigenous flora.

**When to go:** It depends what you want to see. In the Cape Town winter (June-August) you'll see fynbos and strelitzia but the weather will be cooler and rainier. Come spring (September-October) pincushion proteas (pictured left) will come into flower, while in summer (November-March) you'll see mountain dahlias, pelargoniums, agapanthus and amaryllis. But to see the fynbos at their best and the most plants in flower, visit towards the end of winter and in spring (August-October).

For more information visit [sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch](http://sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch) and [country.southafrica.net](http://country.southafrica.net)

## MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

There's already plenty of colour in the city, with its low-rise pink and red buildings and bustling souks set against the striking background of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains.

But it's another world when you step into Jardin Majorelle, the former home and garden of the French painter Jacques Majorelle, who arrived in Marrakech in the 1920s and created his horticultural vision featuring marble pools, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvillea.

There are many gardens to visit close to the city including the Bahia Palace featuring a remarkable riad garden and the Palmyre Museum. For more information go to [gardenvisit.com](http://gardenvisit.com)

**When to go:** Spring (mid-March to May), when the roses are blooming, or in September, when the heat of the summer has faded.



Go 'Walkies' On The Wall Labradors Wall Mural (Wallsauce.com)

# Decorate your home to mark the Year of the Dog

THE Chinese New Year is approaching on February 16, and guess what pooch lovers? It's the Year of the Dog. So, what better way to celebrate than by introducing some canine class into your home?

Dogs are the nation's favourite pets, according to Statista, which found that 24 per cent of Brits share their space with canine chums.

It's time to let dogs run wild on walls and rampage over tableware and accessories. We've trawled the shops for the most dog-tastic finds...

## GO "WALKIES" ON THE WALL

Plain or small spaces, such as hallways and bathrooms, are great for experimenting with quirky wallpaper – like a doggie-dotted version. Plus, a monochrome scheme never goes out of fashion, and black and white framed photos of your pet could be a perfect finishing touch. Alternatively, Wallsauce.com has a brilliant selection of dog wall murals, including a Labradors Wall Mural, from £27 per square metre.

## SET A "PAWFECTION" TABLE

Pooch might have to eat out of a humble bowl

– but you can show you're "top dog" by setting a smart table with crockery that features different breeds or your favourite hound.

## CONJURE A BOW "WOW" SETTING FOR WORK OR PLAY

Focus on Fido (or Fred or Fifi) in a home office or child's bedroom by featuring a colourful wallpaper on a feature wall, and echo the playful puppy theme with bright accessories, from lamps to cushions.

Don't want to go whole hog – or should that be, whole dog – with your mutty makeover? You can still delve into doggy decor with a few subtle touches, perhaps a vase on a shelf or sideboard.

## SHOW YOUR DEVOTION WITH TAIL-WAGGING TREATS

Secretly, you know it's your four-legged friend who rules the house, so pamper your pooch with his/her own sofa or glamorous bed – at least then he won't hog the couch and get hairs all over your cushions! If they're not in need of a new bed, then there are plenty of other canine-kit upgrades to choose from.

# The future is bright as flowers start to show

## ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



*It's not the case, though some might wish it so*

*Who from a window watch the blizzard blow*

*White riot through their branches vague and stark,*

*That they keep snug beneath their pelted bark.*

*They take affliction in until it jells  
To crystal ice between their frozen cells,  
And each of them is inwardly a vault  
Of jewels rigorous and free of fault,  
Unglimpsed until in May it gently bears  
A sudden crop of green-pronged solitaires.*  
(Orchard Trees by Richard Wilbur)

**PLANTS are extraordinarily resilient as the poem by Richard Wilbur makes clear.**

More so than us humans who are perhaps more content to listen to the radiator purr while the weather makes merry outside.

Who wants to wait until May though? Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) have thrust up bright yellow heads surrounded by a ruff of green leaves. They grow from corns and make an excellent ground cover beneath shrubs and trees.

They are especially good under deciduous shrubs with winter stem colour such as Cornus, Rubus and Salix. They can be a bit shy to spread at first but will spread quickly by seed and you can often tell the more established gardens from the swathes of Aconites.

Once the flowers have finished the leaves expand quickly and an extensive patch can make a good weed suppressant early on.

## Quintessential

Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) are the quintessential winter flower and can be grown in pots inside on a windowsill or outside where they look great in borders or in grass.

The simple grace of the white teardrop shaped flowers is hard to resist and the pale sword shaped foliage has an elegance all its own. It is easy to see why they inspire such devotion among enthusiasts though I much prefer to see mine massed rather than close up. Once established it is best to leave them to make a reasonable sized clump and move them after they have finished flowering. This is also the way to buy them if you can, "in the green" as dry bulbs can desiccate quite easily giving only disappointment.

Where I live the catkins are already visible on the Hazel bushes in the hedgerows. Though individually not as showy when seen collectively they can be quite striking.

Another plant which displays its subtle virtues now is *Garrya elliptica*. This ever-



Snowdrops can be grown indoors or outdoors in pots and look great in borders or in grass, according to Ross



The ruddy purplish sheen of Bergenias is eye-catching

green shrub is best grown against a wall where it will appreciate some shelter. The evergreen leaves are gently waved at the edge. The catkins which are longest on male plants are greyish green the longest of which are seen on the cultivar "James Roof".

As the temperatures plummet the gloss on the leaves of Bergenias acquire a ruddy purplish sheen which in the best cultivars such as "Bartok" turns a rich ruby red.

They make ideal ground cover and look wonderful finding the edges of beds and borders or around trees.



Eranthis – or Winter Aconites – have bright yellow heads

They can tolerate quite dry conditions, though the foliage is not so luxuriant and does better where there is a little more moisture.

All things told there is plenty to see in a month that is far from being a dead loss garden wise.

## Widow: Proud to share my life with great man

CYRILLE Regis's widow Julia paid tribute to her husband. Here are some of her words:

"My loving, caring, amazing husband Cyrille Regis was born on February 9, 1958, and left French Guyana where he was born to come to the UK in 1963.

"I am grateful his parents brought him here or I wouldn't have had the absolute privilege of spending the most wonderful 11 years of my life married to this great man. Just to write a eulogy was hard because I've not still fully come to terms with the fact I won't see his infectious smile again.

"Cyrille adored his family - his children and grandchildren brought such great joy to his life and he was immensely proud of them.

"As I got to know him, I was enamoured with just how humble and grounded he was. Cyrille treated everyone like they were the most important person he had met. He had the unique ability of making people feel so special. Regardless of who they were, he made time for everyone, including his many fans, many of whom are kind enough to be with us today.

"His career afforded him many great opportunities to make a difference but it was through his faith and community work he was able to make a direct impact on the lives of others. Cyrille loved God and made sure wherever he went everybody knew how Jesus had changed his life.

"Simply put, he was selfless and saw it as his duty to utilise his profile to encourage and empower others.

"Even now in his death I'm immensely proud of him. I'm proud of his legacy but mostly proud to have shared my life with a man of such integrity and character.

"I feel tremendously privileged to have spent part of his journey with him. Rest in eternal peace my beloved. I'll love you forever."



Julia Regis

# Fitting send-off for legend

By Matt Wilson

**THE theme was one of celebration. That was what family friend Karl George informed the packed East Stand at the start of an emotional, yet fitting service at The Hawthorns on Tuesday.**

By the end, it was clear there was much to celebrate.

Cyrille Regis will be remembered as a footballing icon, but even though he transcended the sport and broke down racial barriers, it became clear that that was only one part of a rich and varied life. Family, faith, football. The three central tenets of Regis the man were all recognised in equal measure.

Shortly after the sun rose, fans began gathering before unfurling a banner that read 'There's only one Cyrille Regis' made especially for the game at Goodison Park immediately after his passing.

## Sprinkling

Flashes of the iconic yellow and green that Cyrille has become synonymous with lit up the crowds in dark suits and coats, and it was an apt tribute to a man who brought so much colour into the lives of so many.

There was also a sprinkling of claret and blue and the odd hint of sky blue which served as a reminder that this son of Albion was loved all over the West Midlands.

The celebration service may have been at The Hawthorns, but the afternoon wake that followed was held at Villa Park.

It's hard to think of anyone else who would be remembered at the grounds of two such fierce rivals, but Regis was a man who transcended rivalries, local boundaries and football itself. The influence Regis had on the game is still being felt today of



Widow Julia during the memorial service



A young girl with an image of the football icon



Cyrille's daughter Michelle



Robert, brother of the Baggies hero



Cyrille's brother Dave at the service

course, and that was epitomised by the presence of Baggies head coach Alan Pardew and the whole Albion squad, who lined up to form a guard of honour for Cyrille's funeral cortege.

All eyes were trained on the cortege as it made its way through the car park. Floral tributes of 'Brother', 'Dad', and 'Husband' that flanked the coffin served as a reminder of the family man behind the footballer.

But then an impromptu chant of 'Cyrille, Cyrille, Cyrille' that

sparked up among supporters conjured up memories of the joy he brought to thousands on the terraces. We all knew Regis was more than just a footballer. He was a pioneer, hero, father, husband, charity worker, Christian, mentor.

Those who waited at The Hawthorns for the service heard a glimpse of what was to come when Beverley Knight gave an empty stadium a rousing warm-up.

But nothing could prepare for the powerful outpouring of all types of emotions during the service itself. It

was joyous and celebratory at times, and the goosebumps that rose when the 4,500 people inside the East Stand started chanting his name were nothing to do with the biting cold.

There was also sadness and grief when personal tributes to a brother, an uncle, and trailblazer poured down from the stage, sometimes punctuated by pauses for tears.

Jonathan Barnett of Stellar agency spoke eloquently about his secondary career in football. "Time and time again young men have met

Cyrille and been transformed for the better," he said.

Albion Supporters' Club chairman John Homer gave an impassioned rendition of what he meant to Baggies fans, and former Coventry manager John Sillett delivered a tub-thumping homage to his footballing attributes.

But it was Jason Roberts' powerful speech about his own discovery that his uncle treated every single person with the same personal touch of a family member that really struck home.

Funny, inspirational and heart-breaking, Roberts managed to capture Cyrille's ability to have a huge impact on a number of people while making it feel personal at the exact same time.

Roberts also paid tribute to the black footballing royalty like John Barnes, Dwight Yorke, Don Goodman and Viv Anderson who were at the service, a visible signal of Cyrille's continued impact on the game.

## Impact

Carlton Palmer flew in from Thailand especially, and Brighton boss Chris Hughton took time out from preparing for his side's Wednesday night match with Southampton.

Former Albion boss Ron Atkinson, Wolves legend Steve Bull and scores of fans were also in attendance.

Cyrille Regis will go down in football folklore, not just that of Albion, or indeed the West Midlands.

His impact both on and off the pitch is well-known. But this is somehow overshadowed by the effect he had personally on those who knew him intimately, either through the church, through the game, or through family.

He will be missed terribly by many, many people, but on Tuesday his life - all aspects of it - was given the fitting celebration it so richly deserved.

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## Pounds are lost but charity gains cash

A SLIMMING group has put its weight behind a charity by shedding a combined total of 88 stone.

Haden Cross Community Fire Station in Cradley Heath received a cheque for £1,400 for the Firefighters Charity which was raised by the local Weight Watchers group, which holds weekly meetings at the station, in an event attended by 200 people.

The charity supports firefighters who are injured in the line of duty and helps with rehabilitation and supporting their families.

For the event, 17 people who lost a combined total of 88 stones took to the catwalk to raise the money for charity.

Blue watch commander Temple Jones said: "This amount of money is a godsend really because the charity is a national one so the money goes towards helping firefighters across the UK. Any funding we can get is a lifeline."



Tracey Hixon and Anna Wythes with officers Temple Jones and John Elsworth

## Victims of Holocaust were remembered at ceremonies

**GENOCIDE** victims killed in wars across the globe were commemorated during a special remembrance service held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day across the Black Country

Wreaths of daffodils were laid in memory of the millions of victims of the Nazis, as well those killed during other conflicts.

Representatives of The Royal British Legion and the Royal Air Force Association joined with the Federation of Birmingham Ex Service Associations an event on Sunday in West Brom-

wich at Highfields Memorial Gardens, off High Street. The Last Post sounded as people fell silent for a minute before all united to make a Statement of Commitment - pledging to honour genocide victims.

Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Ahmadul Haque MBE said: "We need to make sure people now and in the future remember the Holocaust and more recent atrocities."

Mindu Hornick, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, bravely shared her ordeal. She told the crowd how she was sent to the Nazi extermination site in Nazi occupied Poland with her mother, older sister and two younger brothers.

Only she and her sister survived as they were sent to work in a munitions factory. The 88-year-old - who is the last survivor of Nazi concentration camps living in Birmingham and came to the UK in 1948 said: "Without ever forgetting my past, I managed to rebuild a new life in Birmingham."

"I feel it is my duty to express in my own words what we suffered there and to convey the message that it is wrong to stand by when others are being persecuted."

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day - which was on Saturday - was The Power of Words. Similar events were held in Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

## Children's TV artworks are for sale at auction



'Baldmoney and Dodder at the tiller of the Jeanie Deans' estimated to fetch between £250 and £350 at auction

AN AUCTION of nearly 200 original watercolours used for the 1975 TV series 'Baldmoney, Sneezewort, Dodder and Cloudberry' will go under the hammer in Stourbridge.

The sale on Saturday at Fieldings in Stourbridge will include works by John Worsley that were used as story boards for the Anglian TV series.

The artworks are all signed and dated.

The characters come from Little Grey Me, a children's fantasy novel written by Denys Watkins-Pitchford about the last four gnomes in Great

Britain, who live beside Folly Brook in Warwickshire. They are named after the flowers Baldmoney, Sneezewort, Dodder and Cloudberry.

In 1975 The Little Grey Men was adapted into a 10-part animated series.

Mr Worsley was a prolific British artist and illustrator, best known for his naval battle scenes and portraits of political figures.

Mr Worsley also worked on adaptations of The Wind in the Willows, Treasure Island, and A Christmas Carol. He died in 2000, aged 81.



Artist John Worsley at work

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### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## BENJAMINS BANQUETING SUITES

Halesowens premier wedding venue

**B**enjamins opened in Birmingham Street, Halesowen in December 1997, the building was originally The Primitive Methodist Chapel and supporting buildings erected in 1868 according to the stone over the main entrance, a foundation stone was laid in August 1889 by the then Mayor of Dudley Benjamin Hingley Esq. MP and although not named after Benjamin Hingley the stone was certainly the inspiration for the name of the Banqueting Suite.

The stone now takes pride of place over the fire place in the Cornbow Room.

Set over 2 floors Benjamins can accommodate functions of all sizes upto 450 guests and indeed upto 650 guests if the whole of the building is used for one function as was the case in August 2011!



The Cornbow Room is on the lower floor, it is suitable for parties up to 200 guests, has its own stage for DJ, Band or any other entertainment with access to the large patio area which can be used for Barbeques or Pig Roasts weather

permitting, also due to its layout is ideally suited for smaller events.

The Aldridge and Beaumont Suites are adjacent on the first floor and are usually used as one room for larger parties, ideal for formal weddings due to its open plan layout.



For civil ceremonies where the guests for the ceremony are 100 or less the ceremony is usually conducted in the Beaumont Suite whilst the removable wall is in place between the 2 Banqueting Suites and then the room can be opened out for the Wedding Breakfast and evening guests.

For civil ceremonies where the guest numbers exceed 100 both rooms can be open and used for the service and can accommodate up to 200 guests for the service.

Civil ceremonies for up to 100 guests can also take place in the Cornbow Room.

Civil Ceremonies of less than 100 usually conducted in the Beaumont Suite or Cornbow Rooms.



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# It's a super trouper of a sunny musical

It's the ultimate feel-good show. Mamma Mia has been described as being the world's sunniest and most exhilarating smash-hit musical. Written by Abba stars Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus the musical is set on a Greek island paradise.

It is a story of love, friendship and identity and is cleverly told through the timeless songs of Abba. The lead character is Sophie Sheridan, who is played by Lucy May Barker.

The action centres around her quest to discover the father she's never known. It follows her story as Sophie's mother comes face to face with three men from her distant romantic past on the eve of a wedding they'll never forget.

The show, which runs at the Wolverhampton Grand from February 6 to 24, is irresistibly funny and has been thrilling audiences all around the world. Now it is coming to Wolverhampton for the first time.

Lucy May is looking forward to that – and says she has a blast playing Sophie each evening.

"Being able to create my own version of it is amazing. I want to transport people away to our little Greek island world. That helps them forget what they've seen before.

"Sophie has been played by others but this is my interpretation. I have so much to do in the show because the story is so full. I just trust the fact that I was chosen for the part and I bring my own confidence to it. There's so much to do in this job."

## UPBEAT

The show is truly upbeat. The title of the musical was taken from the group's 1975 chart-topper Mamma Mia. Benny and Bjorn, who composed the original music for Abba, were involved in the development of the show from the beginning while singer Anni-Frid Lyngstad became involved financially and has attended many of the premieres around the world.

The musical includes such hits as Super Trouper, Lay All Your Love on Me, Dancing Queen, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Take a Chance on Me, Thank You for the Music, Money, Money, Money, The Winner Takes It All, Voulez-Vous, SOS and the title track. It has been seen by more than 60 million people around the world and a film version made in 2008 was a huge hit. That starred Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Amanda Seyfried, Christine Baranski, Stellan Skarsgård and Julie Walters.

Lucy May says the show is so resolutely upbeat that it's impossible not to enjoy it. "I think it's hard for everyone not to have a great time. It's such a happy show and so if there's someone in the company who's down, it brings them straight up.

"People often come up with these amazing stories about how it makes them feel – the show is feel good.

Knowing me, knowing you – Mamma Mia is hit-packed fun



It's so upbeat. It gives the audience the chance to escape for a couple of hours. It is an absolute dream come true to play the role. I absolutely love the show and getting to perform it to all the lovely audience around the UK is a feeling like no other.

"I grew up listening to Abba and we had the Abba Gold CD in my mum's car, so I knew almost all the words already when I auditioned which was very handy ha ha! I love going on for Lay All Your Love.

"I love singing that number and from then on I don't leave the stage for the rest of the act which is a total rollercoaster."

The musical opened in the West End at the Prince Edward Theatre on April 6, 1999, and transferred to the Prince of Wales Theatre on June 9, 2004, where it played until September 2012. It has also featured on Broadway and at other cities around the world.

The present British tour has thrilled audiences the length and breadth of the UK and Lucy May says the responses have been remarkable.

"There was a review back at the start saying Mamma Mia should be available on the NHS. I've played it for the whole tour since 2016. With that

*I want to transport people away to our little Greek island world*

comes fantastic opportunities for learning and developing the role. I'd like to think I've got better. You practice something eight times a week and different audiences and different places give you different things. We were in Birmingham for 10 weeks and it was great and people are generally happy and cheery in the West Midlands: they're up for a good time.

"I've been to Wolverhampton before in other shows and the Grand is a beautiful theatre. There are some audiences that are slightly more serious in other parts of the UK, but Birmingham and Wolverhampton. But these are cities I love.

"To do big scale musicals that are uplifting and crowd-pleasing and positive is a gift.

"As a kid I did Annie and that really gave me the bug. Most of the people on stage or in the company had done it as kids, they'd done that in theatre school. So to go from doing that as a child to doing it as a professional in adult life is a dream. I try to always remember that. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to turn their childhood passion turning into their life passion – I'm one of the lucky ones."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

A scene from Matthew Bourne's Cinderella



# Cinderella dances in Blitz battered London

AUDIENCES have been laughing along to a star-studded pantomime production of Cinderella for several weeks at Birmingham Hippodrome but a very different, darker vision of the fairy tale is arriving at the venue next week.

Choreographer and leader of the New Adventures dance company Matthew Bourne, who thrilled audiences at the Hippodrome a year ago with his glamorous cinematic-styled version of The Red Shoes, has revived his take on Cinderella.

It is set in a Blitz-ruined wartime London where the threat of death has ignited a new age of hedonism as our heroine embarks on a dizzying romance with an

RAF pilot. Bourne's stylish vision, which was screened by BBC TV during the festive season from London's Sadler's Wells Theatre, is a revival of a production first performed 21 years ago and last revived a decade ago. It is a radical reworking that draws on a real life tragedy when popular London nightclub the Café de Paris took a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomb.

The production keeps the magnificent Prokofiev score from the traditional ballet, in recorded form, and has potent imagery that often recalls Powell and Pressburger's classic 1946 wartime fantasy A Matter of Life and Death, about a pilot who briefly cheats death.

Matthew Bourne's Cinderella is staged from Tuesday to Saturday. See [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

# Brief return to Rep for classic romance

One of the most acclaimed theatrical productions of recent years returns to Birmingham in February.

Kneehigh's production of Noël Coward's Brief Encounter, adapted and directed by Emma Rice, will be staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) until February 17.

Coward's Brief Encounter is one of the most haunting love stories ever and is particularly fondly remembered due David Lean's classic British movie from 1945 starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard.

A chance meeting in a railway station café brings together housewife Laura and doctor Alec and their casual friendship turns into a heart-breaking love story.

Both the play and the film inspired acclaimed director Emma Rice. She says: "Brief Encounter combines the romance of cinema with all that live theatre can offer; magic, passion, surprise, suggestion and naughtiness."

"I carry this show in my heart and couldn't be more excited to return to this heart-pounding production and bring it back to Birmingham. Radical and romantic, nostalgic but oh, so relevant – let

passions ignite!"

This award-winning production of Brief Encounter premiered at Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 2007 winning the hearts of audiences and critics alike. It subsequently triumphed in the West End, toured the globe and received dazzling reviews on Broadway.

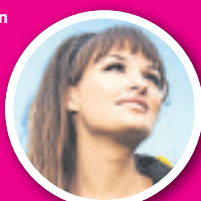
The cast will feature Jim Sturgeon as Alec and Isabel Pollen as Laura. Brief Encounter will be directed by Emma Rice and designed by Neil Murray.

For more information see [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or for tickets call 0121 236 4455.



# Japanese drums and Beethoven

Japanese taiko percussion group Kodo perform new work Evolution at Symphony Hall on Monday. Classical highlights at the Birmingham venue include Scottish violin virtuoso Nicola Benedetti, pictured, on Tuesday. She performs Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and his Violin Concerto with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The CBSO conducted by Constantinos Carydis perform Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition on Wednesday.



# Sub Pop's latest signing at the NAC

Californian singer-songwriter Jesca Hoop, who is currently based in Manchester, is in concert at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton on Monday. She has released five studio albums since she was encouraged to start her musical career by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan, and has worked with Guy Garvey and as a backing singer for Peter Gabriel. She recently signed to the Seattle-based Sub Pop label.

Also coming to the NAC are the Jam-like Watford outfit The Spitfires on Saturday. American punk veterans the Dead Boys are at Digbeth's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday). Reggae star Macka B is back on home turf for a gig at Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday. Jazz and reggae singer Zara McFarlane is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Wednesday.

# Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

## Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Lots of exciting upcoming entertainment coming up throughout February. Check out their advert for up to date times and acts coming up.

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Jamie Leigh

Friday 9th February  
**LOUISE ROBERTS**  
female vocalist

Friday  
16th February  
**MATTY JAY**

Friday 23rd February  
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CHOICE



Jim Sturgess

**Hard Sun (BBC1, 9.30pm)**  
A night jogger is murdered and brutalised in his home, and when Renko realises the victim is a man from her past, she realises his death has dire personal implications for both her and Daniel. Armed with knowledge of Renko's traumatic history, Hicks understands the significance of the man's death, but with the government breathing down his neck to secure the Hard Sun dossier, he once again finds himself at odds with her. Meanwhile, Daniel goes on the run after inadvertently claiming the Hard Sun flashdrive, but fleeing places him firmly in Grace Morrigan's cross-hairs. Pre-apocalyptic crime thriller, starring Jim Sturgess, Agyness Deyn, Nikki Amuka-Bird and Owain Arthur.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Six Nations Preview. **1.45** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union.  
**7.00** **BBC News.**  
**7.10** **Regional Programme.**  
**7.15** **All Together Now.** The musical talent show continues, as Rob Beckett invites more singers to step on-stage for a chance to win a £50,000 cash prize. Facing a 100-strong panel of judges, the stars must not only deliver the performance of a lifetime, but also encourage the panellists to join in too. The more judges each singer manages to win over, the better their chances of proceeding to the grand final.  
**8.20** **Casualty.** New COO Avis Baxter arrives to find Holby in chaos. The hospital is at capacity, and a queue of ambulances laden with deteriorating patients is only making matters worse. Alicia is horrified when Ethan tows the management line, stating no more locums or nurses will be made available, and when his decisions result in a serious case of sepsis being missed, and breaks the rules to get the patient – an injured chef – into resus. Meanwhile, eager new F1 Bea faces a trial by fire in the ED after offloading her ‘uninteresting’ patients on old medical school pal Rash, and Charlie’s plans to wine and dine Duffy on their anniversary fall short of the mark.  
**9.10** **BBC News:** Weather.  
**9.30** **Hard Sun.** The brutal murder of a night jogger has dire personal implications for both Renko and Daniel, and places Hicks at odds with a colleague he has come to respect.  
**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Burnley v Manchester City, Manchester United v Huddersfield Town and Arsenal v Everton; National Lottery Update.  
**11.55** **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to look ahead to Super Bowl LII.  
**12.25** **Film:** Ill Manors. (2012) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **7.45** Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. **8.00** The Designers. **8.30** Deadly Top 10. (R) **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Robot Wars. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The Hairys Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. (R) **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Spain v Great Britain. **3.30** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R)  
**6.00** **Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's West Country tour continues as he visits the Somerset Levels, where he witnesses the natural spectacle of huge flocks of starlings swirling in the sky as they come in to roost for the winter. He also discovers how the Levels' dedicated volunteers have helped to maintain crucial reedbeds, which have now become havens for rare bitterns and great white egrets. Plus, Hugh observes the large blue butterfly, which has been brought back to the region from near-extinction, and meets nature enthusiast Stephen Hembury, who has been capturing local wildlife on film, but is having little luck recording elusive hares.  
**7.00** **A House Through Time.** David Olusoga concludes the house's story, revealing how it was once almost demolished, then became a home for creative people and meeting the current owner. Last in the series. (R)  
**8.00** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring is accused of leaving a light burning in the church hall during a blackout, and receives a summons to appear in court. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)  
**8.30** **Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** Paul Merton embarks on a journey from Lairg on Loch Shin to Lochinver and finally, to the summit of Suilven – one of the most distinctive mountains in Scotland.  
**9.00** **QI XL.** Jason Manford, Jimmy Carr and Victoria Coren Mitchell join Alan Davies and Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz.  
**9.45** **Live at the Apollo.** (R)  
**10.30** **Film:** The Talented Mr Ripley. (1999)  
**12.40** **Film:** Albatross. (2011) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Film: Evan Almighty. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **3.15** Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)  
**6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.05** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**6.15** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill introduces more viewer-submitted comedy clips, including a drone's destructive encounter with an errant baseball, and a photo-shy seal.  
**6.40** **Take Me Out.** Men from Leeds, Dublin, Edinburgh and Swansea seek the approval of the 30 single ladies sitting on Paddy McGuinness's panel.  
**8.00** **The Voice UK.** The Blind Auditions enter their fifth week, as Will.I.am, Jennifer Hudson, Olly Murs and Tom Jones reassemble to assess the singing skills of more would-be stars. Emma Willis ushers the contestants on-stage where, yet again, the coaches must decide whether they would like to back each performer based on the power of their voice, rather than their appearance. Only once a coach decides to support the singer are they permitted to turn their chair around, and any of the contestants chosen could be in with a chance of securing a recording contract with Polydor.  
**9.30** **Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon infiltrates the homes of another three mystery celebrities, and challenges Shane Richie, Rachel Riley and Alex James to guess "who habitates in a house like this".  
**10.30** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**10.45** **Film:** Lethal Weapon. (1987) Action thriller, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.  
**12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supervet. (R)  
**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the landscape of north-west Portugal as they embark on a voyage down the Rio Douro. It's a journey that combines two of their favourite things – water and wine – as they follow the route taken by Yorkshire-born port entrepreneur Baron Forrester, and visit some stunning wine estates. The couple also stop off at the Factory House, a traditional English gentlemen's club that lies in the heart of the city of Porto. (R)  
**8.00** **Village of the Year with Penelope Keith.** Five villages from the Central Zone, which reaches from the west of Ireland to the Midlands, compete for a place in the final, as judges Alex Langlands, Patrick Grant and Juliet Sargeant assess their merits.  
**9.00** **Film:** Suffragette. (2015) Premiere. A woman joins a campaign to gain the right to vote in 1912. She and her allies find their peaceful protests accomplishing little in the face of an unwavering state, so resort to increasingly violent measures, risking everything they have in the pursuit of political justice. Period drama, starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne-Marie Duff and Meryl Streep.  
**11.10** **Film:** About Time. (2013) A man learns he has the ability to travel through time and uses the power to improve his love life. Romantic fantasy comedy, with Domhnall Gleeson and Rachel McAdams.  
**1.20** The Last Leg. With guest Stephen Fry. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace an O'Grady's plan backfires. (R) **4.20** Coast vs Country. A woman seeks a new life in north Wales. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.40** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The A-Team. (R) **2.00** The A-Team. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**6.00** **The Wonder World of Puppies.** The canine development documentary continues by exploring how puppies use their key senses – smell, touch, sight and hearing – to absorb information about their new surroundings, and crucially, make a start on broadening their horizons. Six-week-old golden retriever Dakin demonstrates how his ever-developing brain helps improve his stature and coordination, and a litter of bull mastiff pups are left baffled by a mirror. A cocker spaniel destined to become a working dog illustrates how selective breeding can encourage desirable abilities, and a corgi with a big future as a show-dog must first overcome a few crucial hurdles.  
**7.00** **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups.** Joe Pasquale showcases one last selection of pranks, with laughs coming at the expense of Justin Timberlake and Louis Walsh, among others. Last in the series.  
**8.00** **Blind Date.** A white witch from Preston seeks to cast her spell on three eligible bachelors, and former military man Dean from Wiltshire sets out to find his dream girl. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield United, Aston Villa v Burton Albion and Leeds United v Cardiff City.  
**9.55** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two, including Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury Town and Plymouth Argyle v Blackburn Rovers.  
**10.25** **The X-Files.** (R) **11.15** **The X-Files.** (R) **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film:** Vampire Academy. (2014) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean  
**8.00** Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World  
**9.00** Spiral  
**11.05** Top of the Pops: 1985  
**12.10** Elvis: That's Alright Mama 60 Years On  
**1.10** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean  
**2.10** Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World  
**3.10** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.00** Take Me Out  
**1.15** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold  
**2.20** **Film:** Yogi Bear (2010)  
**3.20** **FYI Daily**  
**3.25** **Film:** Yogi Bear (2010)  
**4.00** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007)  
**5.00** **FYI Daily**  
**5.05** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007)  
**5.45** **Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012)  
**6.50** **FYI Daily**  
**6.55** **Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012)  
**9.00** **Film:** 22 Jump Street (2014)  
**10.00** **FYI Daily**  
**10.05** **Film:** 22 Jump Street (2014)  
**11.15** Family Guy  
**12.15** American Dad!  
**1.10** Release the Hounds  
**2.05** Ibiza Weekender  
**3.00** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**2.55** **Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind (1972)  
**4.55** Midsummer Murders  
**11.00** Foyle's War  
**1.00** On the Buses  
**1.55** **ITV3** Nightscreen  
**2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**1.30** **ITV Racing:** Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's meetings Sandown Park, Musselburgh, and Wetherby.  
**4.00** **Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977)  
**5.05** **FYI Daily**  
**5.10** **Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977)  
**5.50** Storage Wars  
**6.45** Live World Boxing Super Series. Murat Gassiev v Yunier Dorticos.  
**11.30** **Film:** Pale Rider (1985)  
**12.30** **FYI Daily**  
**12.35** **Film:** Pale Rider (1985)  
**1.50** The Professionals  
**2.55** **ITV4** Nightscreen  
**3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.30** The Goldbergs  
**2.00** The Big Bang Theory  
**8.00** **Film:** Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011)  
**10.55** Gogglebox  
**1.05** Naked Attraction  
**2.10** Rude Tube  
**3.05** Gogglebox  
**4.00** How I Met Your Mother  
**4.45** Rude(ish) Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Dunston Checks In (1996)  
**1.00** Johnny English (2003)  
**2.45** Carry On Cleo (1964)  
**4.35** The Family Stone (2005)  
**5.00** Festive comedy drama, with Sarah Jessica Parker.  
**6.45** The River Wild (1994)  
**9.00** The Inbetweeners 2 (2014)  
**10.55** The Hollow (2015) Premiere. Horror, starring Joseph Mawle.  
**12.50** Troll Hunter (2010)  
**3.05** Close

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## CHOICE



Shaun Evans

**Endeavour**  
(ITV, 8pm)

New series. The newly promoted Detective Sergeant Morse investigates when a famous international thief tries to steal a Faberge egg from an auction. The case leads to the gruesome murders of an academic and a gangster, and Morse is convinced the deaths are the work of the same man. As he struggles with his new responsibilities, he finds himself forced to mentor a younger partner (played by Poldark's Lewis Peek). Shaun Evans, Roger Allam, Anton Lesser, James Bradshaw, Sean Rigby, Dakota Blue Richards, Abigail Thaw, Caroline O'Neill and Sara Vickers star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** The Truth About Getting Fit. (R) **2.15** Wonders of the Moon. (R) **3.45** Songs of Praise. **4.20** Film: The Proposal. (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.

**6.05** BBC News.**6.20** Regional Programme.

**6.30** Countryfile. Reports on winter from around the country. Matt Baker meets a Dorset man championing local winter produce, and Anita Rani discovers the therapeutic benefit of making jewellery. Steve Brown learns to drive a team of huskies, Joe Crowley meets a man with a lifelong passion for deer, Adam Henson visits a farm where gathering the sheep is a risky business, and Ellie Harrison learns about foxes. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.30** Still Open All Hours. Granville and Gastric come up with a romantic plan to persuade Madge and Mavis to stay. However, it involves spending a little more money than the shopkeeper is comfortable with.

**8.00** Call the Midwife. Nurse Crane and Trixie investigate when a mother abandons her children at the clinic. When the woman is sent to a neurologist, the results are devastating for the whole family.

**9.00** McMafia. Alex is forced to admit the truth as peace negotiations in Istanbul get underway between Semiyon and his enemies, but he does not realise he is about to suffer a further betrayal.

**10.00** BBC News.**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** Match of the Day 2. Action from this afternoon's Premier League fixtures – Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Crystal Palace v Newcastle United at Selhurst Park.

**11.15** American Football: Super Bowl LII. New England Patriots v Philadelphia Eagles (Kick-off 11.30pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the showpiece match.

**3.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.55** BBC News.

## BBC2

**7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. **1.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **1.30** Orson Welles: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.10** Film: Jane Eyre. (1943) **3.45** The Crane Gang. (R) **4.45** Elise Christie: In from the Cold. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

**6.00** Six Nations Rugby Special. Italy v England. John Inverdale presents action from the concluding match of the opening round of fixtures, held at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

**7.00** New York: America's Busiest City. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. (R)

**8.00** Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer. Summer in Yellowstone brings a new challenge for the beavers as their river dries up, while the wolves have a surprising strategy to keep their pups fed. Last in the series. (R)

**9.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of more business ideas, including a range of language-learning children's books and skin care products made out of hemp.

**10.00** The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

**10.30** Insert Name Here. Miles Jupp, Kate Williams, Sally Phillips and Roisin Conaty join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer Sue Perkins' questions about famous people who share a name. (R)

**11.00** Cleverman. Boondie becomes the first public victim of the sinister "Process". Charlotte suspects there is something terribly wrong with her pregnancy, and Koen is reunited with an old friend.

**11.55** Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the opening round of fixtures, which featured Wales v Scotland at Parc Eirias, France v Ireland at Stade Ernest Wallon, and Italy v England at Stadio Mirabello.

**12.25** Film: Yves Saint Laurent. (2014) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.05** Signed Stars: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs the Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** River Monsters. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.30** The Voice UK. (R) **1.00** ITV News: Weather. **1.10** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **1.40** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30** Regional Programme : Weather. **5.40** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00** Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the next stage as the contest reaches the halfway point, with nine celebrities still in the running to be crowned this year's champion. However, they still need to impress judges Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Ashley Banjo and Jason Gardiner with their talents to avoid the skate-off.

**8.00** Endeavour. New series. The detective investigates when a famous international thief tries to steal a Faberge egg from an auction - but the case leads to two gruesome murders.

**10.00** ITV News: Weather.

**10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

**11.15** Next of Kin. Mona is released from custody and agrees to become a tasked witness, which means she will be a covert source for the police in their attempts to bring in her nephew Danny. However, the fallout from her actions at home is disastrous and her marriage comes under more strain than ever. Thriller about a doctor who is drawn into a tangle of betrayal, conspiracy and murder after her brother's kidnapping brings buried family secrets to light, starring Archie Panjabi, Jack Davenport, Claire Skinner and Viveik Kalra. (R)

**12.15** Great Art. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** Film: Never Been Kissed. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Drew Barrymore and Michael Vartan. **4.40** Film: Shark Tale. (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith.

**6.30** Channel 4 News.

**7.00** Posh Pawn. The return of the programme offering an insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking. James takes a ride around London in an eye-catching supercar, with an aspiring fitness guru who's looking for £80,000. With her eyes on a round-the-world cruise costing £30,000, an adventurous retiree wants to sell a collection of handbags and jewellery. A car enthusiast contacts memorabilia expert Lawrence about a helmet that once belonged to land speed record-breaker Donald Campbell, and James faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys. (R)

**8.00** The Biggest Little Railway in the World. The model train is only halfway through its journey to Inverness, but has to drive through bad weather and harsh terrain with the volunteers due to head home. Last in the series.

**9.00** SAS: Who Dares Wins. The seven recruits who have made it to the final stage of the contest face the most gruelling challenge so far - which only one of them will complete. Last in the series.

**10.00** Maltese: The Mafia Detective. New series. Italian crime drama following a Sicilian detective who is drawn into a struggle with the Mafia after he witnesses the murder of his best friend and his fiancée.

**11.15** Film: Elizabeth. (1998) Elizabeth I's rise to the throne is threatened as enemies within the court and overseas plot to bring about her downfall. Historical drama, with Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush.

**1.25** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.20** The Supertv. (R) **3.15** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. (R) **4.10** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.15** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wisper. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.50** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Milkshake!: Paw Patrol. **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **1.55** Film: Johnny English Reborn. (2011) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.55** News Weekend. **4.00** Film: The Last Airbender. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Noah Ringer. **5.00** 5 News Update. **5.05** Film: The Last Airbender. (2010) Concluded.

**6.00** Film: Bulletproof Monk. (2003) A mysterious Tibetan monk is entrusted with protecting an ancient and mystical scroll. As modern-day Nazis seek out the relic in a bid to resurrect the Third Reich, the monk searches for a suitable successor to take over his task - and a pickpocket is the unlikely choice. Martial arts thriller, starring Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott, Jaime King, Victoria Smurfit and Karel Roden. Edited for violence.

**8.00** Film: Batman Begins. (2005) Billionaire Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice, consumed with rage over his parents' murder. Trained by a secret society, he hones his fighting skills and returns to his home city of Gotham on a mission to rid it of crime and corruption in the guise of a masked vigilante. Comic-book adventure, exploring the origins of the Dark Knight, with Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Cillian Murphy, Gary Oldman and Katie Holmes.

**9.00** 5 News Update.

**9.05** Film: Batman Begins. (2005) Concluded.

**10.50** Film: The Punisher. (2004) **1.05** The X-Files. (R) **2.45** SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Cuba with Simon Reeve **9.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Uffer **10.00** Arena: Stanley and His Daughters **11.15** Stanley Spencer: The Colours of the Clyde **11.45** The Story of Maths **1.45** Cuba with Simon Reeve **2.45** Art, Passion & Power: The Story of the Royal Collection **3.45** Close

**ITV2**

**11.40** Take Me Out **1.00** The Voice UK **2.30** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35** Film: Beethoven (1992) **4.10** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.30** Total Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**11.50** Lewis **1.50** A Touch of Frost **3.50** Inspector Morse **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **11.00** Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.30** Blue Murder **2.45** George and Mildred **ITV4**

**11.10** Pawn Stars **1.00** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **3.15** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **5.05** Film: Thunderball (1965) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Thunderball (1965) **7.50** Hornblower **10.00** Film: Source Code (2011) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Source Code (2011) **11.55** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **2.05** The Professionals **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**1.05** Toy Story Toons: Small Fry **1.15** The Big Bang Theory: Go Dating **5.45** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Film: This Means War (2012) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **2.00** First Dates

**Film4**

**1.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **2.55** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.35** Dante's Peak (1997) **5.45** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **9.00** No Escape (2015) **11.05** Queen and Country (2014) **1.20** Atonement (2007) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**

**The Silence of the Lambs, Channel 5, 10pm**

Trainee FBI agent Clarice Starling is sent to interview an imprisoned psychopath with a taste for eating his victims. The inmate offers to help catch a serial killer who is holding a politician's daughter hostage - but to learn what he knows, Clarice has to engage in his dangerous mind games. Jonathan Demme's Oscar-winning thriller, based on Thomas Harris's novel, starring Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn and Ted Levine. (1991)

**TUESDAY**

**The Devil's Teardrop, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A serial killer terrorises Washington DC, with a ransom note the only clue to his identity. A handwriting analyst agrees to help the FBI with their investigation, but also has to deal with fighting his ex-wife for custody of their children. Crime drama based on Jeffery Deaver's novel, starring Tom Everett Scott and Natasha Henstridge. (2010)



**Looper, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm**

**WEDNESDAY**

**Midnight Stallion, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A 15-year-old girl and her parents are desperate to save their struggling farm, and when they discover a wild stallion in a nearby forest they begin to wonder if it could be the answer to their prayers. Drama, starring Kris Kristofferson. (2013)

**THURSDAY**

**Abducted: The Carlina White Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A couple take their three-week-old baby to a hospital for treatment, but she is snatched by a woman desperate for a child. She raises the infant as her own for years, but as the girl grows up, she begins to suspect the truth and resolves to investigate her kidnapping and find her parents. Fact-based drama, starring Keke Palmer and Anjunae Ellis. (2012)

**FRIDAY**

**Looper, BBC2, 11.05pm**

A hitman employed to kill people who have been sent back in time finds his latest target is his future self. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Bruce Willis. (2012)

# Will the truth still be out there for Mulder and Scully?

Bringing shows back from the dead is all the rage these days – and it’s probably all Doctor Who’s fault.

The much-loved sci-fi show was axed in 1989, was revived in 1996 for a lacklustre TV movie and then disappeared again until 2005 when it made a triumphant return; it’s now one of the BBC’s biggest hits, with the next run set to shake things up when, for the first time, a woman (Broadchurch star Jodie Whittaker) will play the Time Lord.

In May 2017, David Lynch’s surreal Twin Peaks returned after a 26-year hiatus, but before that, The X Files ended its 14-year exile with a well-received 10th season.

When we caught up with its main characters – FBI agents Mulder and Scully – the duo had been living separate lives for years; she was working at her medical practice, while he ploughing his own furrow. They were initially brought back together by a cable TV host who wanted them to help him expose a sinister organisation he believed had the power to control the American public.

What came as a big surprise was that Channel 5 bagged the chance to broadcast it in this country rather than the BBC, who had the rights to the original run, or Sky.

Prior to it being shown in the UK, some speculated that perhaps the big guns hadn’t wanted the show because it had lost its sparkle. However, their fears were soon dispelled – despite some critics being unkind, fans were thrilled by each episode.

Now it’s back for a new run of 10 tales, but there’s some sadness attached to that – Gillian Anderson has already announced that she’s played Scully for the final time; even if The X Files returns, she will no longer be a part of it – so enjoy her appearance here while you can.

Really, her decision to return to the programme that made her name was something of a surprise. In recent years she’s become highly sought after on both sides of the Atlantic thanks to acclaimed performances in The Fall, Great Expectations, The Crimson Petal and the White, War and Peace and Hannibal; Anderson no longer needs the boost to her career that The X Files once gave her.

She is, however, in the thick of things during the first episode, which begins when Mulder finds Scully unconscious on the floor of their FBI office.

It’s discovered that her brain is in a frenzy of activity, and when she eventually awakes, Scully claims she has had a premonition that suggest the end of the world is nigh – and the only person who can prevent that happening is their mysterious son William.

Will the duo find him? What will he look like, and is his mother right about his ability to save the planet?

We don’t know yet, but there’s another question that needs to be answered: Anderson may have quit, but will her co-star, David Duchovny, be willing to return?

Nobody knows, but the truth is out there...



Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, The X-Files, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**

**My Return from IS - Panorama BBC1, 8.30pm**

The programme tells the story of a British woman who is back in the UK after living with so-called Islamic State in Syria for more than two years before managing to escape with the help of her mother. She was arrested, but after extensive debriefing by counterterrorist officers the CPS decided there were no grounds for prosecution. ‘Fatima’ tells Panorama reporter Peter Taylor how the group has hijacked Islam, with men acting as cannon fodder and women used for cooking, cleaning and giving birth.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Eurovision: You Decide BBC2, 7.30pm**

The Brighton Dome has an important place in Eurovision history – it’s the venue where Abba, arguably the contest’s biggest gift to the world, won in 1974 with Waterloo. But will some of their magic rub off on this year’s would-be UK representatives as they take to the stage in the hope of being chosen by the public and a panel of experts? The acts battling it out are former Britain’s Got Talent contestant Asanda, girl group Goldstone, soul singer Jaz Ellington, musical theatre actor Jaz Ellington, DJ and singer RAYA and SuRie, who has previously performed as a backing vocalist at Eurovision. Meanwhile, another Swedish champion, 2015 winner MÅNS Zelmerl’w, joins Eurovision superfan Mel Giedroyc on hosting duties.

**My Millionaire Migrant Boss Channel 4, 9pm**

It’s been claimed that many immigrants to the UK end up taking jobs that Brits don’t want, but is this work ethic the reason why they are three-times more likely to become millionaires than people who were born here? Liverpool-based Palestinian Marwan Koukash would seem to be proof that hard work does pay off. He arrived in 1976 with just £200 and is now a multi-millionaire with several business interests and a string of prize-winning racehorses.

**THURSDAY**

**Winter Olympics: Countdown to the Games BBC2, 7pm**

The funding of winter sports in the UK has more than doubled since the Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014, and it’s hoped that will be reflected in Team GB’s performance this year – their



**Lethal Weapon, Friday, ITV, 9pm**

**FRIDAY**

**Lethal Weapon ITV, 9pm**

Although Lethal Weapon (the films, as well as this TV series) are primarily action dramas, they have always had a strong comedy element. And this comes to the fore this week as Thomas Lennon’s Leo Getz returns, which pushes Murtaugh (Damon Wayans) and Riggs (Clayne Crawford) to up their banter game. Tonight’s story follows the cops as they investigate a death that occurred moments before the victim won a fortune on a horse race.

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# BRAIN GYM

No.465

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16	13	1	23	10	25	22	26	8	16
5	6	26	11	25	14	11	23		
2	18	20	12	24	1	6	15	23	24
17	20	11	2	22	25	12			
	25	8	21	12	11	19	12	18	2
18	25	7	26	8	12	24	26		11
20	25		4	8	7		18		15
12	26	3	1		15	18	11	24	2
2	12	26	24	O	13	11	26		
9	25	24	N		26	23	3	2	
5	11	17	19	26	23	24	1	15	10
8	11		10	10	25	13	8	10	
20	25	26	15	11	3	10	6	26	14

1	14
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10	23
11	24 N
12	25 O
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	V	H	T	R	D	O	S	Z	K	N	F	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	Y	C	L	J	G	P	X	M	Q	B	I	U

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Even the nudist will require this! (4,9)
- Hero-worship adroitly adjusted (8)
- Some of them matched a favourite of the Janeites (4)
- Business proposition is far from tough (6)
- & 14Ac. A person of corresponding significance (6-6)
- See 12 Across
- Takes off the narrow pieces (6)
- That is about five hundred and fifty unemployed (4)
- Can start to do business somehow (8)
- Shouldered the burden before nightfall and won (7,3,3)

#### Down

- Artist who was an observer of the country (8)
- Fastened up impressively? (6)
- See 19 Down
- Engineer gets bikes and uses the scrap again (8)
- A track made by mountaineers (6)
- Check the flower-holder (4)
- They cease to exist if they're easy to find (8)
- Particular pieces rewritten by nearly everybody (8)
- He gets nothing in an attempt to produce an abstract idea (6)
- An unusual spread had a jarring effect (6)
- & 3Dn. Exhausted dropout (8)
- Dramatic pieces following the gospels (4)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8				9	
10			11	12	13
14		15		16	17
18	19		20	21	
22					

### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Blameworthy (13)
- Music writer (8)
- Departed (4)
- Gambol (6)
- Sermonize (6)
- Abut (6)
- Seemly (6)
- Heroic (4)
- Secretly (8)
- Inclusive (13)

#### Down

- Consumed (8)
- Drive (6)
- In this way (4)
- Brave (8)
- Unmarried (6)
- Open tart (4)
- Ponder (8)
- Private meeting (8)
- Fill (6)
- Fondle (6)
- Indigent (4)
- Lament (4)

## Sudoku

	1	4			5	9	7
	9		5	6			
			2		6		
5	8	2			4	1	
			1				3
		7		5		4	
	6			4	2		1
9	5			1		3	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	8	5	9	4	2	7	1	6
2	1	9	7	5	6	4	3	8
7	6	4	8	3	1	9	5	2
9	3	6	2	1	7	5	8	4
4	7	1	5	8	3	6	2	9
5	2	8	4	6	9	1	7	3
6	9	2	3	7	5	8	4	1
1	4	7	6	2	8	3	9	5
8	5	3	1	9	4	2	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Apes; 8 Communique; 9 Feathers; 10 Post; 12 Stroke; 14 Spruce; 15 Cinema; 17 Rating; 18 Gnat; 19 Pastiche; 21 Plantation; 22 Side. Down: 2 Pedestrian; 3 Scot; 4 Ampere; 5 Curses; 6 Dispirit; 7 Rest; 11 Second-hand; 13 Overtone; 16 Appear; 17 Rustic; 18 Gaps; 20 Inns.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Toss; 8 Earthquake; 9 Pretence; 10 Gape; 12 Ignite; 14 Driver; 15 Foster; 17 Brewer; 18 Tsar; 19 Consider; 21 Disappoint; 22 Amen. Down: 2 Outrageous; 3 Sent; 4 Orange; 5 Shield; 6 Quagmire; 7 Mete; 11 Preference; 13 Interval; 16 Recipe; 17 Bandit; 18 Tidy; 20 Iota.

## Quiz

- Goths were divided into Visigoths and which other group?
- What was founded in 1903 as the first English garden city?
- In Christianity, what are the highest order of angels called?
- Which poet won the 1948 Nobel prize for literature?
- Which clan conspired with the English in the Glencoe massacre?

- Where was the British Unknown Soldier buried in 1920?
- Of what is stinkhorn a species?
- Which incendiary liquid is a mixture of naphthenic and palmitic acids?
- What is the oldest British university?
- What is the hybrid between a blackberry and a raspberry called?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Paradise Regained; 2 The Velvet Underground; 3 Dwight Eisenhower; 4 New Hebrides; 5 Prime minister (of Ireland); 6 Jeremy Bates; 7 Black Widow; 8 Carol Ann Duffy; 9 Dr Graham Leonard; 10 Nigeria.  
Niner: SNOWFIELD

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7231485  
9385  
4689

gives a rhyme,  
gives a composition,  
gives a German song.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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MAGAZINE

### EVENT ORGANISERS CONTACTS

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# Enjoy being left to your own Devizes

THERE was a time when the medieval market town of Devizes held a particular spot in weary travellers' affections.

Many people still remember, before motorways and ring roads headed west, this special little place being a landmark for holidaymakers heading to and from Cornwall and Devon.

A stop-off at Devizes was a must for sandwiches in greaseproof paper and tea from a flask. But for me only living only five miles away in a little hamlet, where villagers viewed Devizes as a dazzling metropolis, it was a box of treats, hiding such diverse delights as school shoes, cattle feed and cheese.

How lovely then to go back to my home town, on a tour of south Wiltshire and see it through the eyes of a tourist, and not one on the road to somewhere else, but one intent on enjoying all this 1,000-year-old settlement can offer.

## FASCINATING

Still dominating the skyline, is the Wadworths brewery, home of the much venerated 6X ale. The scent of its toasted malt fills the streets now, as it did then when I was a schoolgirl. A team of shire horses still deliver the barrels within a two-mile radius, and it is still a major employer. But now, the facade is crisp and bedecked with flowers and pride of place is given to a smart visitors' centre.

Booking in advance is a must for a two-hour tour of this fascinating building, where all the 'big girls and boys' seem to get holiday jobs when I was a youngster.

The tour includes an opportunity to marvel both at the size of the shire horses, and the skills of the brewery's own sign-writers. And what's not to love about the opportunity to taste some of the quality brews at the end – and take home a few bonus samples.

The famous White Horse carved into the hillside



Next on our fresh look at Devizes, was a 90-minute cruise aboard the Kenavon Venture along the Kennet and Avon Canal. While I'm sure this waterway was there when I was a child, I didn't notice it, and neither had anyone with an eye for tourism.

It's a beauty. Alongside a bewitching wharf, with cafe, curios, antiques and art the Devizes leg snakes through the edge of the town and into the Wiltshire countryside, with maybe the chance to spot a kingfisher or a water vole. There is also, nowadays, a smart new marina and a museum.

Traders busy in Devizes Market Place



Our trip was a lovely opportunity to relax after all the beer tasting and to hear all the fascinating snippets of canal gossip served up by our crew.

We were still laughing when we arrived at our perfect bed and breakfast, Avalon Lodge, in Rowde. Owner Nick greeted us not only with the biggest smile in the world but a huge pot of tea and plates of luxury biscuits. What's more, he served them in a serene sitting room saved for guests – no annexing of the clientele in this lovely establishment. Beautiful decor, plump towels, an enormous shower and views over a cottage garden,

ducks, geese and the hills beyond – perfect. Next morning we went somewhere no self-respecting 70s teenager would have dared visit – the Wiltshire Museum, just off Devizes market place. The more mature me loved it, especially in the hands of director David Dawson, who gave us a personal guided tour.

But it was to my own personal timeline that we returned for the end of our tour – Market Lavington, where I went to secondary school. Devizes, you are no longer a town to travel through – you are a destination, and a delight.

SARAH COWEN-STRONG

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## Ideal family home boasting flexible living space

This three-bedroomed link detached property in Ditta Drive, Oldbury, really stands out from the crowd.

With flexible living space, this house is an ideal family home.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £194,950.

It is located in a peaceful new estate close to Oldbury town centre.

The property has a front garden with a side driveway for two vehicles.

OLDBURY  
£194,950

The first reception room has a bay window. The modern fitted kitchen/diner includes fitted appliances and have patio windows opening to the rear garden, which is half paved and has lawn. The ground floor is completed with a downstairs WC.

Upstairs the master bedroom has an en-suite. There is a second

double bedroom. The third and final bedroom is the single bedroom.

To complete the first floor you have the family bathroom which includes a bath with an overhead shower.

The property sits within close reach of transport links to Birmingham city centre, Dudley and Wolverhampton. The local shopping centre is within a 15 minute walk.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



## Extended property has been well maintained

LANESFIELD  
£139,950

Situated in Lanesfield with easy access to the town centre and commuter links, 26 Laburnum Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners Estate Agents at £139,950.

The extended property has been well maintained and is presented to a good standard throughout.

It has excellent living space and would be ideal for first time buyers, investors or even those wishing to downsize.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen opening into the extended dining room, two good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there is off road parking to the front and a pleasant rear garden.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257.



### Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW

**HALESOWEN, Kent Road £1,250 pcm+Fees**  
A beautifully presented extended 4 bedroom house in this very popular area of Halesowen. This lovely property has a spacious hallway, downstairs w.c., dining room, rear lounge & patio doors, large fitted kitchen with appliances, utility, further w.c., master bedroom with en-suite, 2 double bedrooms & 1 single room, family bathroom with shower over bath, large loft for storage or possible playroom, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Lutley Ave £1,000 pcm+Fees**  
A unique modern individually designed 3 bedroom detached house with a lovely wooded rear aspect to Lutley, the spacious accommodation comprises of: Large open plan living room with wooden floors and French doors leading to a private decking area, contemporary kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, 3 generous size bedrooms with master bedroom en-suite, beautiful modern bathroom with shower. This property is stunning and not to be missed. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Narrow Lane £950 pcm+Fees**  
A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to rent this semi detached large family home which has been totally refurbished to a very high standard including a new block paved driveway in this very popular location close to all bus & train links. 2 large reception rooms, beautiful fitted kitchen, utility, private rear garden, 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom with shower. EPC: TBC



**KIDDERMINSTER, Tutors Way £725 pcm+Fees**  
Desirable 3 bedroom property within easy access of Kidderminster Town and transport links. This lovely property features a double master bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en-suite, large lounge and dining kitchen with gas hob, electric oven and fridge freezer, utility room with washing machine, dryer and pantry, landscaped gardens to the rear and off road parking complete with secure garage. Modern and contemporary living that caters for family life. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Caslon Road £695 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely recently decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac location conveniently located close to shops, schools, transport links & all amenities. Internally the property comprises of entrance lobby, spacious living room with feature fireplace, modern kitchen with pantry & electric cooker, downstairs w.c. & separate utility area, upstairs are 2 spacious double bedrooms & 1 large single room, family bathroom with shower over bath. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH, Timberfree Crescent £675 pcm+Fees**  
Recently undergone a full refurbishment, this lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached house is situated in a desirable location close to Haden Hill Park. Entrance hallway leading to front lounge, large modern kitchen/dining area with patio doors leading to private rear garden, side enclosed entrance with downstairs w.c., storage cupboard, 3 good size bedrooms, stylish white bathroom with shower, gas central heating, front garden with driveway. EPC: TBC



**QUARRY BANK, Bower Lane £595 pcm+Fees**  
We are delighted to offer for let this mid terrace house which is well located for shops, schools and amenities including Merry Hill, Russells Hall Hospital and Cradley Heath Train Station. Comprising briefly: 2 reception rooms, kitchen (in the process of new flooring) & downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 good sized bedrooms and garden to rear. Benefiting from gas central heating & full double glazing. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Holt Road £595 pcm+Fees**  
Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station, not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terrace house. Featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D



**WEDNESBURY, Charlotte Road £575 pcm+Fees**  
A 3 bedroom semi detached home being double glazed and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, all electric (NO GAS) and enclosed rear garden, on road parking. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Princess Crescent £575 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished modern 1st floor apartment in a sought after cul-de-sac location. Featuring electric storage heating, good size living room, fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage & driveway parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Talbot Street £575 pcm+Fees**  
A fabulous mid-terrace house renovated 18 months ago with complete rewire, new alarm system, new roof, new A rated Bosch boiler, gas central heating, new carpets & decorated throughout. This property comprises 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 3 bedrooms, rear garden, on road parking. Ideally located a short distance from local shops, Cradley Train Station and the number 9 bus route. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Furnace Hill £575 pcm+Fees**  
A 2 bedroom mid terrace home, being double glazed and centrally heated. The accommodation is suitably located for nearby amenities and has accommodation to comprise a through lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Milverton Close £575 pcm+Fees**  
A modern part furnished to suit 2 bedroom ground floor flat in this very popular residential area comprising of: large lounge, 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, parking space. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Long Lane £575 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property close to railway & bus links. This modern home benefits from double glazing and briefly comprises: hallway, spacious lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom suite & shower over bath, electric storage heaters, front & rear garden and parking to the rear of the property. EPC: E



**CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, Station Road £575 pcm+Fees**  
A mid terrace house within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and local shops. This well presented property features 2 reception rooms, fitted dining kitchen with utility area, 2 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower cubicle and free standing bath tub, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and on road parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £550 pcm+Fees**  
Semi detached house in central Halesowen. This property has 2 large double bedrooms, reception room, kitchen with hob, microwave & fridge, utility room, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazed. NO PARKING NO ACCESS TO FRONT RECEPTION AS FORMALLY A SHOP. EPC: TBC



**NETHERTON, Halesowen Road £525 pcm+Fees**  
A distinctive unfurnished detached nailer's cottage style home, briefly comprising of: 2 cosy reception rooms with feature Arga, 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, original Laura Ashley downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, front and rear gardens. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Ladysmith Road £495 pcm+Fees**  
A mid terrace house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good sized bedrooms, double glazing, modern bathroom with shower, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: D



**BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street £500 pcm+Fees**  
Located within walking distance to Briery Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern and moves house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars. EPC: C LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE GUARANTOR



**HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue £475 pcm+Fees**  
Modern 1 bedroom first floor flat, unfurnished on the popular Abbeyfields Estate close to motorway links. Lounge, small private garden, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, bathroom with shower, electric heating, full double glazing. EPC: F



**STOURBRIDGE, Belmont Road £425 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully maintained and not to be missed. This 2 bed mid terrace house is ideally located within close proximity to transport links and shopping facilities. This property briefly comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, 1 double bedroom and 1 small single bedroom ideal for study or nursery. Low maintenance garden. EPC: G



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**2**

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All Caravans Wanted  
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**what's on**

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Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 4th Feb-  
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**ANTIQUE/**  
**COLLECTORS**  
**VINTAGE FAIR**  
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**3**

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**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**  
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**4**

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other pets, loves the car.  
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companion, only dog.  
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and for information on  
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**5**  
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obligations.

**6**  
**Property**

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entering into any financial commit-  
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**7 Jobs**

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**Classified Ads**

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**8**

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**Cars Over £1500**



**FIAT 500 POP**

09 plate

Two careful lady owners, FSH low mileage 26,000, white, four new tyres, MoT June, excellent condition.

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5-dr, manual, petrol, 44,500 miles, 2008, red, MoT till September 2018, climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, PAS  
**£4,300.**  
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**1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**

**MERCEDES 220 CLK**

**COUPE**

2006.

93,000 miles.

MoT.

Immaculate condition.

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Express & Star STAR

**ESTATE**

**SKODA OCTAVIA**

**SE TDI CR ESTATE**

2015

White,

FSH

40,000 miles.

**£9,500.**

**07812 357499**

**(Wombourne).**

**ECONOMICAL**

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3**

2005, 5dr hatchback.

2 lady owners from new. full MoT, recently serviced.

Service history.

Immaculate condition.

**£1,850.**

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**AUDI LINE 2 LITRE.**

05 plate. Silver.

87,000 miles.

Full service history.

Lady driver.

Very good condition.

**Asking price £2,300.**

**Please call 07828 178241.**



**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO**

**1.6 DIESEL.**

2007.

68,000 miles, exclusive, electric windows, air con, long MoT, cruise control, pas, Alloys, CD.

Very good condition.

**£1,599 ono.**

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**Cars Under £1500**

**BARGAIN**

**AUDI A3 CDI 1.9 DIESEL**

Black, 2000,

3dr, 8 months MoT,

80k miles, lovely condition.

**£595**

**07487 317246.**

**BARGAIN**

**CITROEN PICASSO 1.8SX**

53 reg., red, MoT April, very quiet and smooth drive, good condition, used daily.

**£350 ono**

**07961 669911.**

**4X4**

**MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER**

**SPORT SE**

Dual fuel, 2.4cc, MoT, 04 model, automatic, 4x4, black leather interior, silver, two sun-roofs, one electric, AC, EW, EM, CL, 167k miles but excellent engine, fully alarmed, factory fitted tow bar, new gas system fitted, only 55p per litre gas.

**£1,495 o.n.o**

**07979 784585.**

Genuine callers only please.

**BARGAIN**

**PEUGEOT 206**

**CONVERTIBLE**

**1.6 ALLURE MANUAL**

05 plate, genuine 44,340 miles, MOT end May 2018, two keys, cambelt changed, leather trim, electric windows, mature ice blue, 2nd car, very good condition.

**£800.**

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**VAUXHALL CORSA SXi**

2002, 42,520 miles, black, ABS, EW and mirrors, air bag, FSH, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, CL, one owner, PAS, alloys, stereo / CD.

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**Wolverhampton.**

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**Vehicles Wanted**

**WANTED**

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**07424 399776.**

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Buyer could call.

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**alcan reed cars**

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**10 Personals**

**Personal**

**TALL ASIAN MALE 5FT 11**

43 years old, WLTM 40 plus female for long term relationship, looks unimportant. Likes reading, going out for meals, walks and dancing.

**Box Number P21061 ,**

**Express and Star,**

**Queen Street,**

**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**General**

**PAGE**

**Dave**

We are sad to announce the death of Dave, who sadly passed away at The Shrubbery Nursing Home, Wednesday, aged 75 years.

Would any Relatives please contact

**S.WEBB & SON**

**Funeral Directors.**

**0121 556 0056.**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

For convenience you may fax any advertisement requirements to

**Marie Hogg on**

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**or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)**

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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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**Classified Ads**

# Car of mum and dad – free taxis!

By James Parker

Ferrying family from one social engagement to another may be part of the job description, but it seems for some parents, it's almost a full-time occupation. New research has found the average parent spends 286 hours a year driving their kids around – almost two months' working days. If their journeys were on meter, that would earn them a whopping £9.8k a year.

The survey, which polled 2,000 parents for Vauxhall Motors, found that parents could take a road trip to sunny Lisbon for the equivalent of the 1,283 annual miles that they drive their kids on average.

But it's not just heading from A to B; parents spend an average of two working days a year simply waiting for their children in cars.

And not all trips are to the tune of "are we there yet?"; half (49 per cent) of parents use journeys to have a laugh with their kids and more than two fifths (44 per cent) say they enjoy the bonding time it offers.

Almost a third (31 per cent) admit that the moments spent in a car with their kids affords them quality time they wouldn't get elsewhere. But it seems that both parties get fuelled up over the music choices with a quarter (25 per cent) claiming the selection of tunes is the top in-car discussion.

The research revealed that car journeys are also a great way for parents to find out more about their kids. For both children and parents alike, playground chat is the top thing to natter about with almost half (48 per cent) discussing the latest gossip at school, sixth form or college.

A fifth (22 per cent) of parents use car journeys as an opportunity to eavesdrop on their kids' 'private' chats and one in six (17 per cent) say it's a good opportunity to quiz kids about their love life, with nowhere for them to run!

TV presenter and dad of two, Jeff Brazier comments: "I definitely do my fair share of ferrying the kids around, but it's fascinating to see how many hours of your life it actually takes up. It might seem like a chore at time, but it's true that those journeys are precious moments of quality time that you'll never get back."

## Celebrate

Denis Chick, director of communications at Vauxhall Motors, added: "As a father of three, I've spent countless hours behind the wheel at the mercy of my children.

"At Vauxhall, we celebrate the small moments that make life brilliant. And family bonding time during a car trip epitomises just that."

The results show that while parenting really is a full-time job, the Cab of Mum and Dad is an important bonding experience between parents and their kids – and it's these moments that create priceless memories to make it all worthwhile.

The research supports the launch of Vauxhall Motors' newest player in the SUV car park, the Grandland X. The Grandland X is the largest SUV in Vauxhall's range with seating for five people, generous luggage space and a raft of technology, including WiFi for up to seven devices. It's priced from £22,310 on-the-road.



Vauxhall's newest player in the SUV car park and ideal for ferrying the kids around, the Grandland X

## 1 year's free insurance\* + 0% APR. Quick maths.

Available with up to 5 years' flexible finance.\*



Corsa Limited Edition

Corsa Energy



VAUXHALL

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**T Wall Garages**  
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**Stourbridge Motor House**  
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**Halesowen Motor House**  
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Corsa Energy and Limited Edition range: Urban: 41.5 (6.8) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.2) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined: 54.3 (5.1) – 72.4 (3.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 137-102g/km.#

All of the following retailers are acting as a credit broker and not a lender: Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Dudley Motor Company, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as T Wall Garages, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Stourbridge Motor House, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Halesowen Motor House. We will introduce you to a limited number of lenders. Commission may be received.

\*Models shown are Corsa Energy and Corsa Limited Edition. Offer subject to availability, on selected models at participating Retailers only. Conditional Sale. Finance subject to status. Ts&Cs apply. Applicants must be 18+. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, CF15 7YT. 24-60 month term. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 vehicles (purchase only excluding B2B supported vehicles). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations between 19 December 2017 and 02 April 2018. \*First year insurance offer available on Corsa Energy and Limited models only. While stock last. All drivers must have held a valid full UK or EU licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance Services. Offers available on orders or registrations between 9 January and 31 March 2018. At participating retailers only. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press.

# Skoda's value-for-money approach

By Ian Donaldson

**It's raining new SUVs in the Volkswagen Group as it rushes to tap the trend for these jacked up estates with looks that promise adventure and a life in the wild.**

The latest one wears a Skoda badge on the front and the Karoq name on the boot lid and is the smaller sibling of the Kodiaq SUV launched last year.

It enters a car market where SUV sales are roaring ahead while just about everything else is suffering.

So no wonder it feels like a new VW Group-inspired SUV offering pops up on a monthly basis with a VW, SEAT, Audi or, in this case Skoda name attached.

They share important parts like engines and gearboxes and the expensive to develop platform they all sit on top, leaving it to the stylists to set them apart outside and in. Even then, it can be hard going to guess the precise make you're looking at.

Which means it's a good thing that they all share a modern, finely honed exterior feel and, inside, the Volkswagen Group's insistence on a solid, frippery-free approach wins through.

And so to the Skoda Karoq; priced from £20,875 in SE trim with a 115 horsepower 1.0 litre petrol engine, it looks conspicuously good value for a car that's spacious for people and their luggage and decently well equipped.

Stretching to 4,382mm in length and 1,841mm wide it sits in a class of SUV that takes in competitors from outside the VW Group like the Nissan Qashqai and Honda CR-V.

There are four engines on offer across the range, 1.0 and 1.5 litre petrols with 115 and 150 horsepower and two diesels, 1.6 and 2.0 litres with the same outputs but better economy and pulling power – and a £3,000 price hike.

The more powerful diesel comes with a four-wheel drive system as standard, while all four engines are available with six-speed manual

gearbox or seven-speed DSG automatic transmission, with prices topping out at £31,690 for the Edition 2.0 TDI DSG 4x4.

The core of the Karoq range is expected to centre around the 150 horsepower 1.5 litre petrol engine (from £22,225) with diesels still making an important contribution despite the current wave of distaste for this sort of car.

You can see why diesels will sell too, especially for owners with big mileages to cover where the 61.4mpg official average for the 1.6 diesel compares to the 53.3mpg of the 1.0 litre petrol.

Emissions favour the diesel as well, to one's surprise.

There are three trim levels: SE, SE L and Edition. Standard kit across the range includes alloy wheels, dual zone climate control and front assist that detects a pedestrian in your path and will brake if you don't.

## Kit

SE L models (from £23,165) up the kit count considerably, adding bigger alloys, satellite navigation with an eight inch touchscreen, heated front seats, trip computer, rear view camera and parking sensors as highlights.

Top grade Edition models include still larger (19ins) alloys, uprated sat nav with a larger screen, electrically operated boot, and more safety systems including traffic sign recognition and blind spot protection that warns of traffic you can't see in the door mirrors.

A fourth trim option, called SE Technology (from £20,875) is aimed at business users and includes satellite navigation, adaptive cruise control and parking sensors.

All but the SE have Skoda's Variotronic rear seat system, where the three seats can be moved forward or backwards to increase boot space or rear legroom, or lifted out altogether.

It means a luggage capacity of up to 588 litres with the seats in place or a van-like 1,810



The latest SUV wears a Skoda badge on the front and the Karoq name on the boot lid and is the smaller sibling of the Kodiaq SUV

litres with them removed. The SE has 521 litres available, or 1,630 with the rear seat folded flat.

Out on a mix of roads the 1.0 litre three-cylinder petrol engine impressed with an eager willingness to move this biggy car along, while riding with gentle precision.

And there was not much noise from either the engine, road surface or wind intrusion in the cabin. It showed 38.4mpg after a 130-mile drive.

At the other end of the Karoq range, a 2.0 TDI 4x4 managed around 43.4mpg and felt more rapid in the higher gears but rode

less well and its bigger low profile tyres kicked up a racket on coarsely surfaced roads.

It looks as though Skoda continues to produce cars where the cheaper ones perfectly sum up the brand's fine value for money approach.

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# Kia Niro EV is leading the firm's electric car charge

By James Baggott

Kia has unveiled an electric Niro SUV and promises it'll have a range of 238 miles when it arrives early in 2019.

Currently dubbed a "concept", the car showcases the brand's new electric vehicle technology and spearheads a charge by the Korean manufacturer to bring a whole range of electrified cars to the roads.

At the CES Show in Las Vegas, Kia said it will offer 16 electrified vehicles – including hybrids, EV and fuel cell EVs – by 2025.

An executive also let slip that the refreshed Sportage, due to arrive in the summer, will be the first to offer a hybrid option.

Although billed as a concept, the Niro EV will be launched to the press later this year and go on sale in early 2019. It is fitted with a 201bhp electric powertrain with power coming from a 64kWh lithium-polymer battery pack.

The range of 238 miles could also be extended to 300 miles, hinted execs. The new Nissan Leaf, by comparison, has a range of 235 miles.

The Niro show car is fitted with an



The slick-looking gearchange



Technologically so advanced



Inside the so far concept car, is this futuristic cabin

Active Pedestrian Warning System which alerts drivers to pedestrians or cyclists crossing in front of the car.

While the looks on the outside are a departure from the existing Niro, much is likely to make it across to the production car. Inside, though, some of the clever tech might not get the green light.

A Human Machine Interface for the infotainment and heating lets drivers control it by swiping a touchpad area on the steering wheel, while the car can understand voice recognition and, if it does not identify the driver, can shut down key functions.

Kia executives also hinted at a new longer-range electric Soul

arriving soon, and said the next Cee'd – due in the summer – will have hybrid and electric options, as will the baby Stonic too.

A spokesman for Kia UK said: "Kia is aiming to be a leader in electric vehicle technology and will have 16 electrified models in the range by 2025, many of which will be arriving very soon indeed."



Punjabi Wolves and Wolves on Tour link up to enjoy a fun day out at away games



Drums help with the jovial atmosphere



Fans line up to drum up support for their beloved Wolves



Dancing girls add glamour to the celebrations

# Fans unite to create carnival atmosphere

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

IT is fan travel, but with a difference. Punjabi Wolves Supporters and Wolves on Tour have linked up to provide a 'carnival atmosphere' on away days.

With the success of Nuno Espirito Santo's charges this season, sitting at the top of the Championship, various groups are putting on coaches to games.

Tatter Travels ran its largest-ever operation for the Carabao Cup loss at Manchester City earlier this season, providing eight coaches.

But the Punjabi Wolves Supporters and Wolves on Tour partnership took a different approach. Their focus was on quality, not quantity. Andy Sahota, who helped set up Punjabi Wolves back in 2007, said: "There's 50 of us, we don't want to do quantity – we want to do quality."

### Welcome

"We want to keep the numbers low, but everybody that comes with us has a good time. We want to be like a family, at the end of the day. The people on the coach, we want to know them all. We welcome everybody."

One of the most popular Wolves supporters groups, Punjabi Wolves have made waves this season with their drum-led celebrations after games.

Wolves on Tour only started last campaign, but have gained a good following in that short time. Trips to Man City in October and Reading in November were hugely successful, as was the short journey to Birmingham.

"What we are trying to achieve is a carnival atmosphere," Sahota explained. "We want to try to create that, every game we go to. We want people from all different backgrounds to get together and have a good time."

"Going forward, that's what we are trying to do – we are trying to make it different from what other people are doing. We want

**"We want to keep the numbers low, but everybody that comes with us has a good time. We want to be like a family, at the end of the day. The people on the coach, we want to know them all. We welcome everybody."**

to theme them and have a good time, a carnival."

Wolves on Tour is run by Ash Wilde. The relationship between his group and Punjabi Wolves started with the game at Nottingham Forest in September, which Nuno's men won 2-1.

Sahota added: "Our first travel was to Sunderland in 2007 and all we've wanted is people from all different backgrounds to have a good time – it doesn't matter where you are from. It's about enjoying yourself and partying."

"Ash got in touch with us and it's helped both parties, really – they've got the following, we've got the vibes and the quality. It works hand in hand."

Wilde insists Wolves on Tour came about following the buzz around a Facebook page he set up, called Wolverhampton Wanderers FC News and Chat.

On the partnership with Punjabi Wolves, he said: "It was a great combination, which started with Nottingham Forest away."

"We had been communicating since last season and I knew about the buzz, everything they bring to the away travel."

"Nottingham Forest, we were both talking and said 'let's link up and see how it goes'."

"Since then, we have done Sheffield United, Man City which was brilliant and

Reading with themed travel – a carnival atmosphere. It's just brilliant and it's about being a family and having fun. We started at the tail end of last season, in January, so we are quite new to the game but it's good fun."

"We basically started out from the Facebook page – Wolverhampton Wanderers FC News and Chat – and went on from there."

"We thought we'd have a go at the travelling, and it's good fun."

### Memorable

For Sahota and Wilde, the aim for any away match was to make it enjoyable and memorable for anybody who decides to travel with them.

And Wilde recognises that has been a lot easier to do now Wolves are playing at a very high level, as they have been for the vast majority of this term.

"When the team is playing well, everyone wants to go – there is a good vibe," he added.

"The football is the best I have seen in my lifetime – it's just unreal."

"There is a buzz about everyone, away games sell out in seconds. It's fantastic."

There are currently no further plans for Punjabi Wolves and Wolves on Tour to work together, with both groups focusing on their own activities.

## Ghent ready to step back in at Genting

TOMMY Ghent believes the Genting Arena will be the perfect venue to get fans excited again following his four year hiatus from the sport.

The 25-year-old Coseley boxer will compete on BCB Boxing's 'Now Or Never' show on February 23 on the undercard of Frankie Gavin's bid for the IBO World Welterweight Championship against Bethuel Ushona.

'Gladiator' has been reinvigorated since returning to boxing with his brother Richie in his corner and wants to use this next fight to show why he is a title contender. He said: "Everything is going well. I am getting back into my stride again and I am looking forward to getting back in the ring."

"Having my brother around is fantastic. I am learning every day and I am being pushed to my limit which is what I want."

The show is packed full of local boxers and Ghent is delighted to be involved. "It is really exciting to be fighting in the Genting but I don't think I will be fazed by it," he said.

Tickets, from £40, are available from theticketfactory.com

## Grapple for position to see stars of WWE

SUPERSTARS of American wrestling will be in action in Birmingham later this year. Grapple fans can enjoy all the thrills and spills as WWE Live returns to the Genting Arena.

Roman Reigns takes on The Miz in an Intercontinental Championship match, while also set to join the line up are the likes of Seth Rollins, Braun Strowman, Cesaro & Sheamus, Finn Balor, Alexa Bliss, Sasha Banks and Asuka.

The event has been described as a unique blend of sport and entertainment, combining in-ring match action with dramatic entertainment. Bursting with all the drama and energy of a rock concert, in a fun, lively and exciting environment, WWE Live is the ultimate in family entertainment.

The action takes place on Tuesday, May 15, with tickets available, priced at £9.15/£51.75/£68.70/£80 (including admin fees and 90p facility fee) plus a £2.55 fulfilment fee per order, available at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. VIP tickets are also on offer.

## Kiwi all-rounder back for a blast with Bears

NEW ZEALAND all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme wants to go 'one step further' after rejoining Birmingham Bears for the 2018 Twenty20 Blast.

The 31-year-old helped the Bears to the final at Edgbaston last year, scoring 322 runs at a strike-rate of 170.32, as well as taking five wickets. In the final, they lost to Nottinghamshire Outlaws by 22 runs and de Grandhomme said he was hoping to go one better this time around.

"I absolutely loved my time with the Bears last season," he said. "We played some excellent T20 cricket and came very close to winning the T20 Blast on Finals Day."

"We've got a young squad with plenty of firepower, and I believe that we have every chance of going one step further in 2018. Playing in-front of a big crowd at Edgbaston with the fans in full voice is a special experience and I'm looking forward to returning to the Bears in July."

Bears' sport director Ashley Giles said: "He went on to play a huge role on our path to the final last year."

# Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

## Banging the drum for a carnival atmosphere

### Page 35



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## Lilly blooms to race home with a silver

HALESOWEN athlete Lilly Higgins is fast becoming one of the country's leading juniors and ran brilliantly to claim a silver medal at u-20 level at Wollaton Park, Nottingham, last weekend.

Among the others tackling the hills and mud was Abigail Saker, who finished in 13th place.

In the junior men club captain Peter Dear finished 18th with Kristian Bayley 29th.

Elsewhere, in the u-13 girls Kerrienne Huxley came in 48th and Isobel Knowles in 101st. Tom Harris was 48th in the u-13 boys and James Rollinson 52nd in the u-15 boys.

In the u-17 men Lewis Henry finished 53rd and Matthew Wikinson 66th.

The senior ladies team consisting of masters athletes, finished a credible 18th of the 34 teams.

In a field of 250 athletes the team was led in by Sam Morton in 91st, Kerri James 105th, Sally Spencer 115th, Melanie Hepke 126th, Simone Jones 160th, Caroline Lambert 179th, Anna Cosimetti 213th and Helen Attwood 238th.

The senior men finished 13th of the 38 teams led home by Mateusz Silwinski in 88th, Adam Cross in 91st, Dave Turvey 97th, Dave Lewis 218th, James Hoult 230th, James Parker 260th, Alex Morgan 272nd, Andrew Carruthers 300th, Andy Nock 350th, Bill Nock 384th, Paul Allen 418th and Jamie Sircorn 461st.

## Club claims clean sweep at backstroke

THE first full weekend of competition at the Worcester County Swimming Championships saw many Halesowen swimmers crowned county champion and many more walking away with medals.

There was a clean sweep in both the 50m and 100m men's backstroke events, the former won by Mark Laing, ahead of Jack Simpson and Ryan Larkin. Finishing places for the latter were Larkin, Simpson and Laing.

At her first county championship outing for the club, newcomer Maia Noonan became the 12 and under girls' champion at 50 and 200m freestyle, 50 and 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly.

Club captain Josh Bradley took gold in both the men's 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke. Joe South swam a big personal best to become the 14 and under boys 200m breaststroke county champion. Larkin picked up a further silver and two bronzes, Amber Robbins a silver and there were bronzes for Olivia Jay, Joe South, Adam Ryan, Jacob Bailey and Rob Jennings.

## Cornbow wrestling

WRESTLING returns to the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen this weekend. Presented by Alternative Wrestling World, the first bell will sound on the Back to the Future event at 6.30pm on Saturday. Doors open at 6pm at the Hagley Road venue. Admission is £8 at skiddle. com/tickets

## Final respects paid to icon Cyrille



Hundreds gather to pay their respects

HUNDREDS of football fans gathered at The Hawthorns and lined roads leading to the ground to say their final farewell to Cyrille Regis on Tuesday.

The pioneering former Albion, Villa and Wolves footballer died on January 14 from a suspected heart attack at the age of 59. The Baggies first-team squad and manager Alan Pardew lined up to pay their respects as the hearse made its way out of the ground to a private family funeral. Afterwards, the life of Cyrille

was celebrated at The Hawthorns with a public service, with chants of 'there's only one Cyrille Regis', in recognition of a man who paved the way for a generation of black footballers.

Among those paying tributes were ex-team-mate Brendon Batson, Cyrille's widow Julia and his nephew former Albion player Jason Roberts.

Donations were made in lieu of flowers to The Jason Roberts Foundation, Water Aid and Christians in Sport.



Cyrille Regis

# DWYER IS BACK WITH HEATHENS

CONOR Dwyer is back for Cradley's National Trophy campaign, turning down a permanent third tier spot to do so.

He joins the latest teenage hotshots to have been snapped up by Heathens.

Dwyer, aged 24, enjoyed some fine performances in Heathens colours last season and was desperate to come back.

And despite Cradley's absence from the 2018 National League, Dwyer has sacrificed extra meetings of his own to represent Heathens again.

Co-promoter Gary Patchett said: "That sums up Conor's dedication and commitment. Even though he was offered a full team spot with another club in our group, he turned that down just so that he could ride for us in fewer meetings in the National Trophy."



Conor Dwyer

Patchett also confirmed there are plans to hold a Meet The Riders Night before the club's first meeting.

The acquisition of Dwyer follows the signing of Kyle Bickley, who became the third 15-year-old in a week to sign on at Heathens. The club followed up by snapping another hot prospect.

Bickley, who turns 16 this month, joins Drew Kemp and Jason Edwards in the side along with skipper Adam Roynon. Now, another 16-year-old, Jordan Jenkins, who also rides for Mildenhall, has become the latest rising star to join Cradley's National Trophy side.

Bickley said: "It's a really good club. Friendly people, friendly management. I don't see why I can't do well. I am proud to represent the club."

Bickley will ride for his local club Workington in the Championship and Belle Vue Colts in the National League with Heathens unable to secure enough dates for a full season.

Jenkins said: "Cradley is a great club and I'm looking forward to it."

Boss Will Pottinger said: "The team is coming together very nicely."

## Thomas springs into action



Kristian Thomas with Park Wrekin elite programme head coach Brett Ince

OLYMPIC hero Kristian Thomas has joined the coaching staff at Telford gymnastics club Park Wrekin.

Thomas, who was born in Wolverhampton, trained at Earls Gym, Halesowen and now lives in Cannock, was a 2015 European gold medalist and member of Team GB's bronze medal-winning London 2012 men's artistic gymnastics squad.

He joins Park Wrekin as head of the club's

recreational programme. He was guest of honour at the launch of the club's new premises in September and cut the ribbon to launch a £200,000 investment in new Olympic-quality equipment and facilities.

Christine Still, head coach at Park Wrekin and trust board member said: "We are all very excited by Kristian joining our coaching team."

Thomas said: "I am privileged to become a part of their team."

## FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

## Four defeats in row spells Yeltz trouble

HALESOWEN Town slipped into further trouble at the bottom of the Evo-Stik Premier, losing their fourth game in a row, 2-0 at Lancaster City. Basement boys Sutton Coldfield also won to close the gap on Yeltz to four points.

Lancaster took the lead on 17 minutes when Daniel Platt failed to deal with a free-kick from Sam Bailey and Djabi Mamadu stooped to head in at the far post. Lancaster secured the points on 71 minutes when Billy Akrigg netted after a mazy 60-yard run.

Yeltz had to play the last ten minutes a man down after Bradley Lewis went off injured, one of three casualties on the day.

Stourbridge suffered another blow to their Evo-Stik Premier play-off hopes after going down 4-2 at Grantham – their second away defeat in a week after losing 1-0 to Ashton United.

The Glassboys went behind within 23 minutes through Andrew Wright, but were level via a Tom Potts own goal. Daniel Meadows' effort bobbed past Stourbridge keeper Matt Gould to restore Lancaster's lead and Lee Shaw and Michael Hollingworth made it four before half-time.

Stourbridge had a lifeline two minutes into the second half, but Leon Broadhurst saw his penalty saved.

Second-half substitute Kyle Perry did have the last word, heading home.

## Kelly's eye is on Open darts slot

DUDDLEY'S Liam Kelly and Cannock's Mark Craddock have booked their places at the 'FA Cup of Darts' after coming through qualifiers in Wolverhampton.

They now enter the UK Open at Butlin's Minehead from March 2-4. Rileys Sports Bars are working alongside the PDC to produce 32 'wildcards'.

Kelly and Craddock prevailed from the first weekend of competition. The next event is on February 18. Applications can be made in person at Rileys until 5pm the day before. Call 01902 310521. The online cut-off is 24 hours before the event at [www.rileys.co.uk/tournaments](http://www.rileys.co.uk/tournaments).

Entry is £7. There is a strict dress code of trousers, shoes and either a shirt or polo shirt.

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